

Approved For Release 2009/05/06 : CIA-RDP80T00246A009400140001-2

25X1

**Page Denied**

Approved For Release 2009/05/06 : CIA-RDP80T00246A009400140001-2



Approved For Release 2009/05/06 : CIA-RDP80T00246A009400140001-2

# CZECHOSLOVAKIA

THE FACE OF A COUNTRY

## THE FACE OF A COUNTRY

MARCO PETERKA

ARTIA

Approved For Release 2009/05/06 : CIA-RDP80T00246A009400140001-2

JINDŘICH MARCO — MIROSLAV PETERKA

## THE FACE OF A COUNTRY

He who has traversed the earth—felt the tremendous surge of the ocean, scaled ice-bound peaks that reach for the stars, and known the lotus lure of the islands of eternal spring—at his journey's end turns his steps gladly homeward. The farther afield he has roamed and the richer the pattern of his experience, the more heartfelt is his joy at his homecoming.

He wanders through murmuring forests and quiet glades fragrant with wild strawberries. Rocky heights cleave the skyline above him and ravines plunge away at his feet. He clambers by rushing silvery streams and strolls along the banks of leisurely meandering rivers. He watches the play of sunbeams in the gleaming mirror of the lakes. He listens to the sweet sobbing of the ripples and the crystal thunder of the weirs; the soft air that fans his cheek is laden with birds' song and the sibilant whispering of the reeds.

Wherever he goes the past goes with him. It is indelibly inscribed in architectural forms—castles and mansions on proud promontories and cathedrals rising from the dreamy plains into the blue dome of the skies; the towns and villages, even nature itself, are living records of the lives and endeavours of his ancestors. He is constantly aware of the contradistinction between ancient and modern—the villages which cling to the centuries old traditions of folk art and yet are caught up in the inexorable whirl of contemporary life; and the towns in which the past, petrified in indestructible memorials, joins hands with the present, exemplified in the work and pleasure seeking of modern man.

This book presents the impressions made on the wayfarer by his native land—Czechoslovakia. It does not aim at completeness, but rather at a selective canvas capturing atmosphere and conveying the distinctive quality which renders things and people unreplicable in time and space.

ARTIA

# THE FACE OF A COUNTRY



A

Picture

Book

of

Czechoslovakia

# THE FACE OF A COUNTRY

J. MARCO - M. PETERKA

Artia

Prague

THE FACE OF A COUNTRY

Photographs by Jindřich Marco and Miroslav Peterka

Text by Kamil Bednář

Designed by Miloš Hrbas

© 1958 by Artia Prague

Printed in Czechoslovakia

S 533



## BEHOLD, MY COUNTRY!

EVERY epoch has its allotted time and intuitively the hour that chimes for it, as Charles Baudelaire wrote in his poems in prose. Not the hour ticked out by the revolving cog-wheels, but the pulsating hour of our lives, which strikes a different note for us than for the author of *Les fleurs du mal*. Those in our age upon whose ear it falls will name it the hour of universal understanding.

Are not these words too grandiose for the introduction to a book of photographs? I think not; these pictures present scenes and people distinct in their individuality and yet in essence having their counterparts all over the world. The intent and purpose of this volume is not to prove that the nations are divided by insurmountable barriers arising out of traditions, race, climate and way of life, but, on the contrary, to show that, because of their fundamental affinity, the nations can comprehend and understand each other. Its further aim is to demonstrate that the beauty inherent in a country and its people becomes apparent when seen through eyes attuned to aesthetic appreciation.

Our book is not intended as an exhibition of chauvinistic pride, attributing to one's own country and nation unrivalled virtues. A national character is of course the pre-condition of all human character: if a man be not nation-minded he cannot become world-minded. The invisible threads which tie him to his birthplace can never be severed. These sentiments, however, are a far cry from chauvinism. Our book is addressed to the reader everywhere and is couched in a new, or rather a timeless language—a universal tongue composed not of complicated alphabets and differing combinations of letters, but of the faculty of the eye to perceive beauty, the capacity of the heart to rejoice at the sight of beauty, and the ability of the mind to serve beauty.

Strangely enough, people seldom realise when they say Turkey, England, Norway or Egypt, that they are expressing a constant, the one and indivisible earth; the variant lies in the sen-



timents of the inhabitants. Therefore, when I say *Behold my country!* that is tantamount to saying *Behold the earth! or the world and all its peoples.*

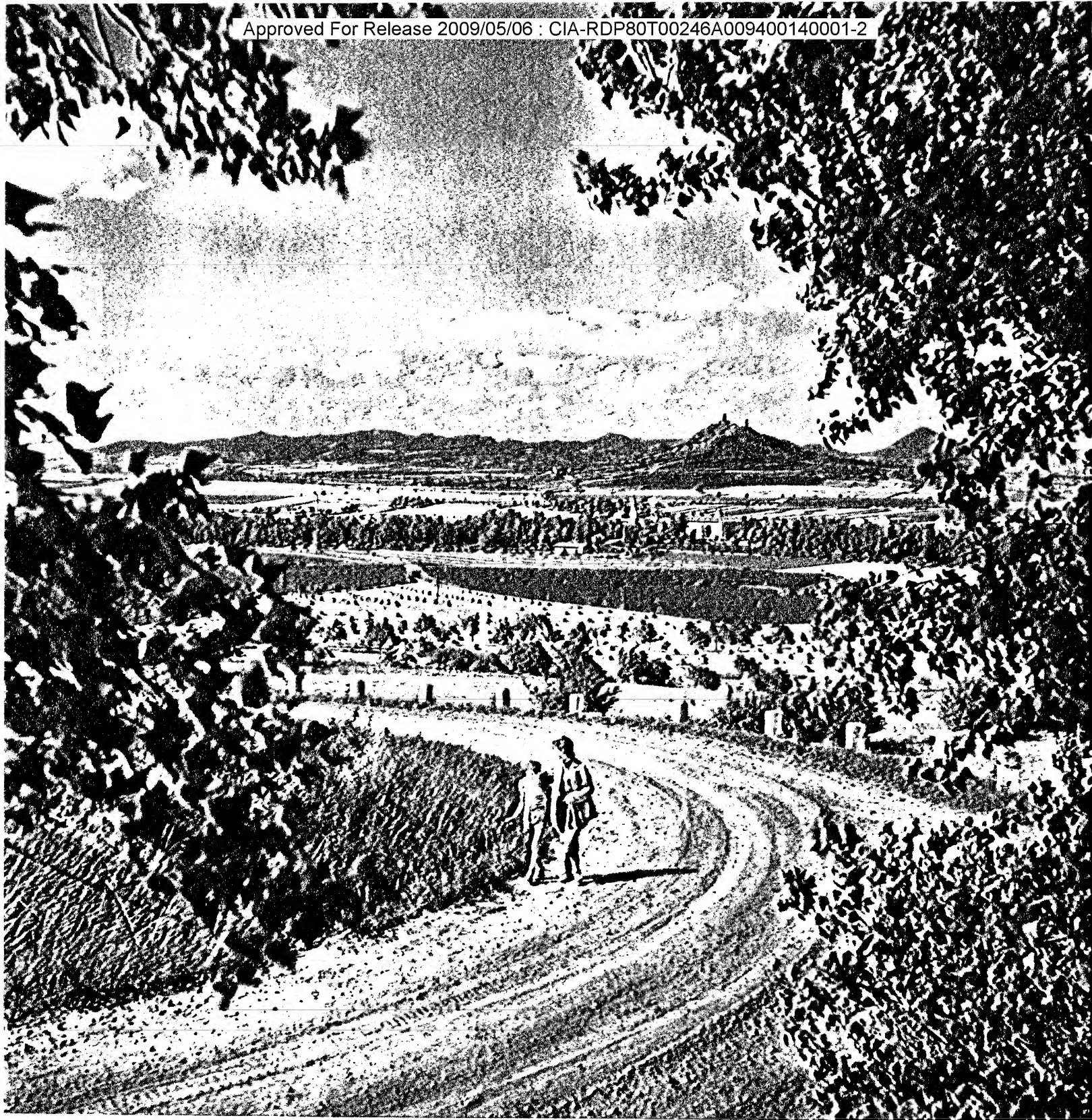
Scenery is one of the innumerable facets that go to make a country. Better expressed, it is not a facet but a language. We have but to gaze and to listen and in the stillness we can distinguish the individual words or at least the gist of its message. There are two kinds of scenery: the original, untamed face of nature which was here before man and will persist after him; and the second, which man has indelibly stamped with his likeness or, if you like, taught his own language: but in fact it is one entity, in which the face of man has merged imperceptibly with the face of nature, and it speaks at one and the same time the language of man and the language of nature.

One of the most beautiful parts of Czechoslovakia is South Bohemia. It is a dreamy, contemplative countryside, a landscape of straight lines stretching to the horizon undisturbed by hill or valley and broken only by the glinting expanses of the meres—bright eyes reflecting white clouds by day and the stars at night. It is a serious, thoughtful country and it has produced serious, thoughtful people. They like to probe to the root of things and this carries them to extremes: to martyrdom for the sake of truth, typified by the fifteenth century religious reformer, Master John Huss, who was burned at the stake, and, at the other end of the scale, to scepticism and sobriety.

Although it has its mountains, too (the Giant Mountains in Bohemia and the Tatras in Slovakia being the highest), Czechoslovakia is not a country of sharp and striking contrasts—neither yawning abysses, nor soaring peaks, neither a wilderness, nor a tropical paradise, but the soothing charm of undulating plains and gently rising hills, threaded with silver-ribboned rivers and streams. The absence of abrupt transitions in their environment has its reflection in the character of the people. It is a country of moderates typified in the folk proverbs, “The golden mean is best” and “The world is good, home is best”.

Behold, my country! These words would hold no magic, did they not at the same time imply *Behold, here is beauty!* A book would be bereft of meaning were it to introduce to the world a country and a nation devoid of beauty. Ugliness, even commonplaceness, divides; beauty, like an electric spark, establishes contact. These pages will open up to the reader vistas of beauty which will seem to him new and exciting, though in reality it is the same beauty that roves the universe, seen here in a different guise and discovered by the perceptive eye of the photographer.

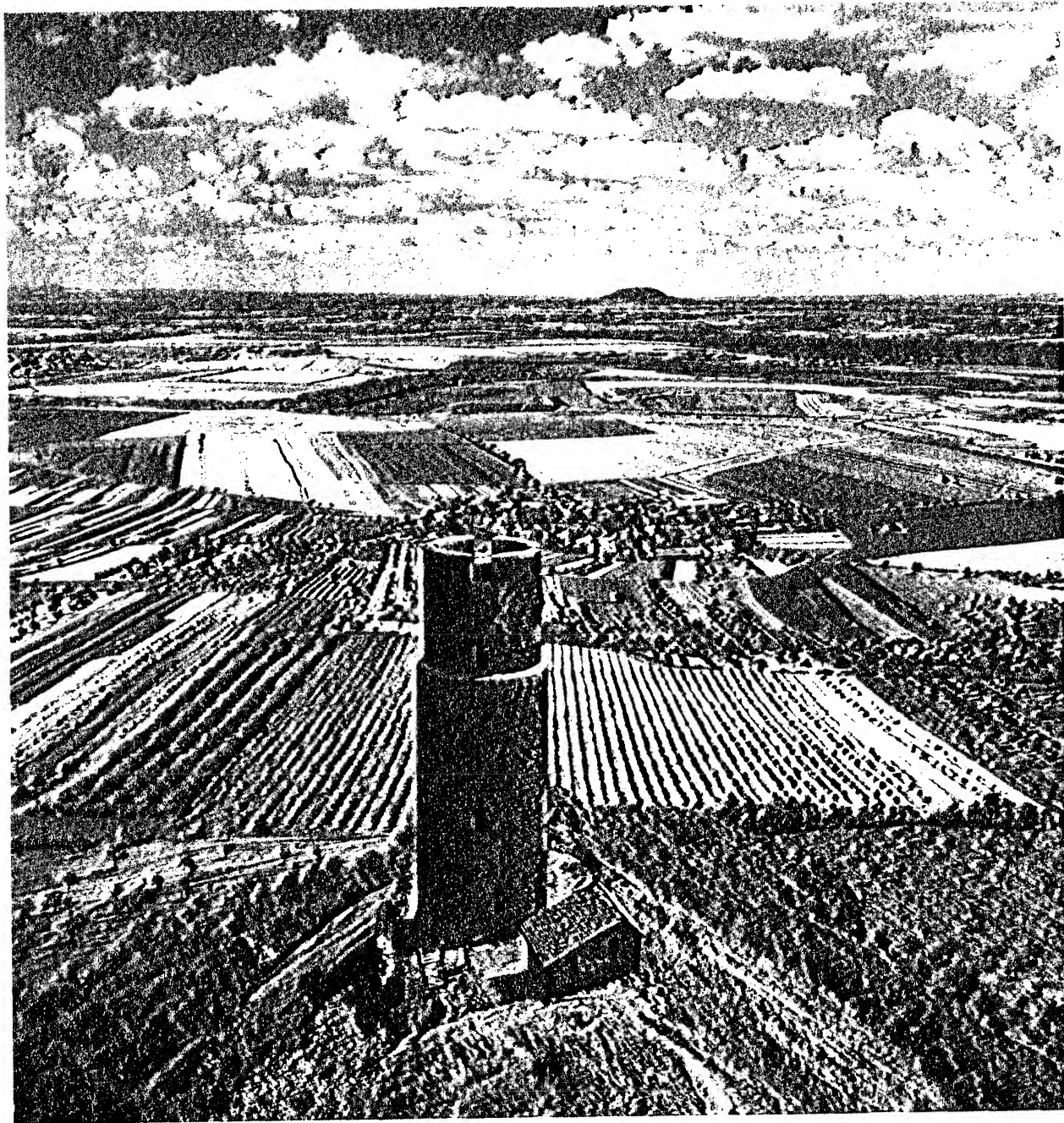
The reader, taking this book into his hands, will perhaps open it at the photograph captioned “Autumn, the producer, seeks his Romeo and Juliet” and will exclaim, “Why, that could quite easily have been taken here!” There will be a certain amount of truth in this, but not the whole truth. In the rustle of the falling leaves, in the veil-like tracery of the branches, in the whole tone of the picture, there is a quality which is indefinably and inimitably Czech. It is beauty in essence and form akin to the beauty of other countries, but seen through Czech eyes. Incidentally, there are pictures in this book, known as “typical”, but it should be stressed that the trait for which they are thus designated is intrinsic and is diffused in the atmosphere of the whole book. It is a Czech greeting to readers the world over.



Our wanderings begin

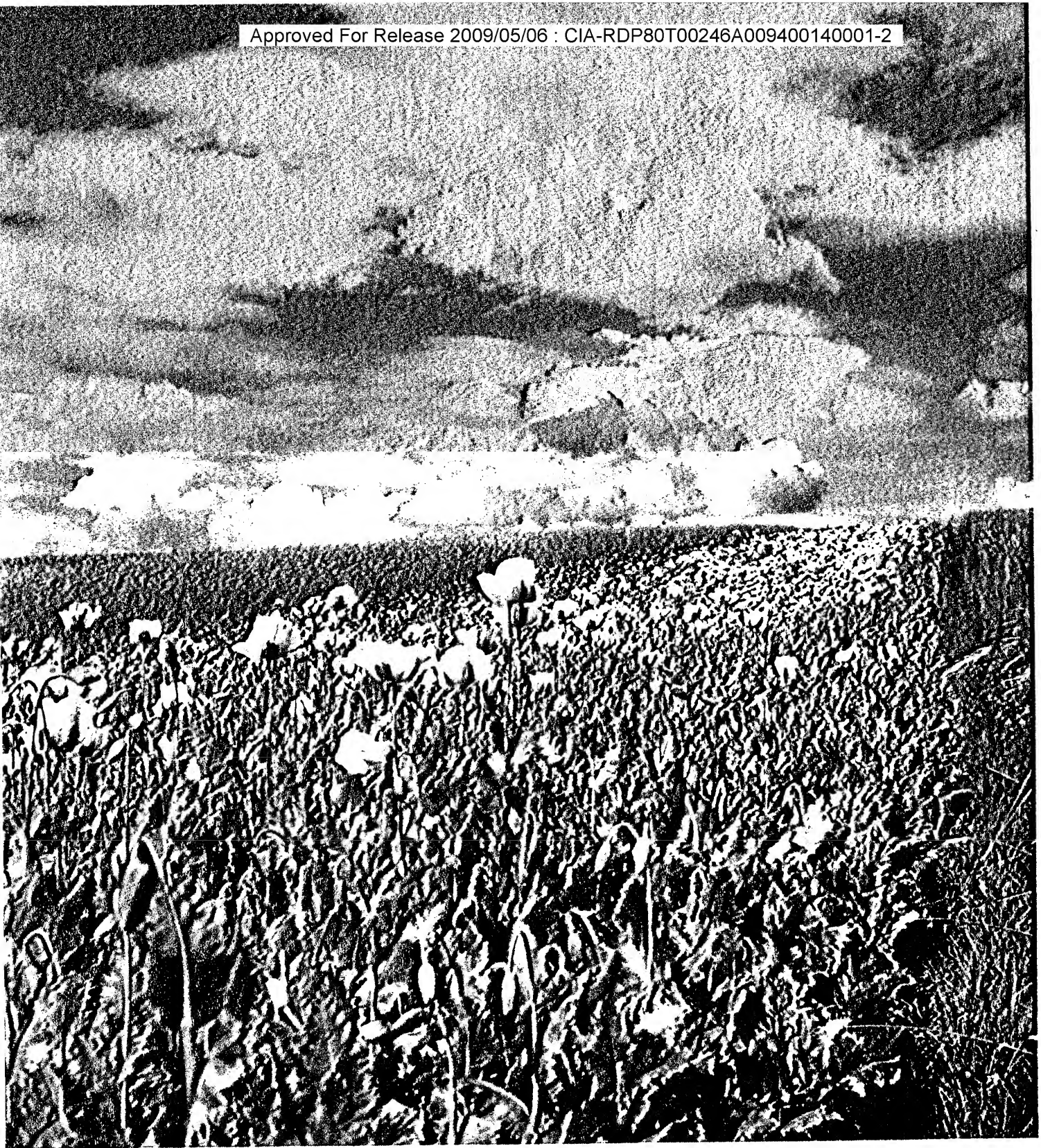






...and history spins its web





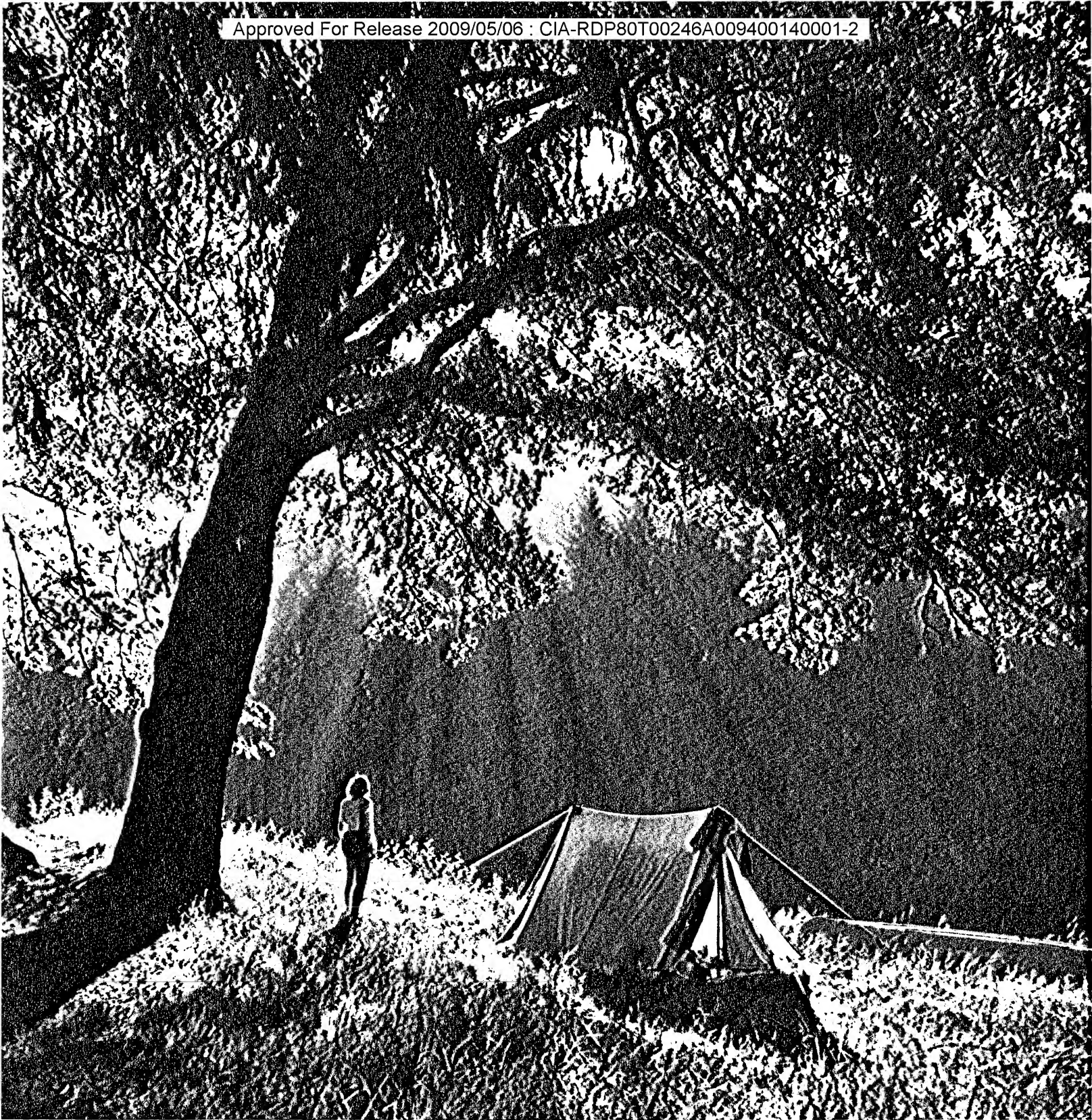
Dancing poppies



Whispering clouds

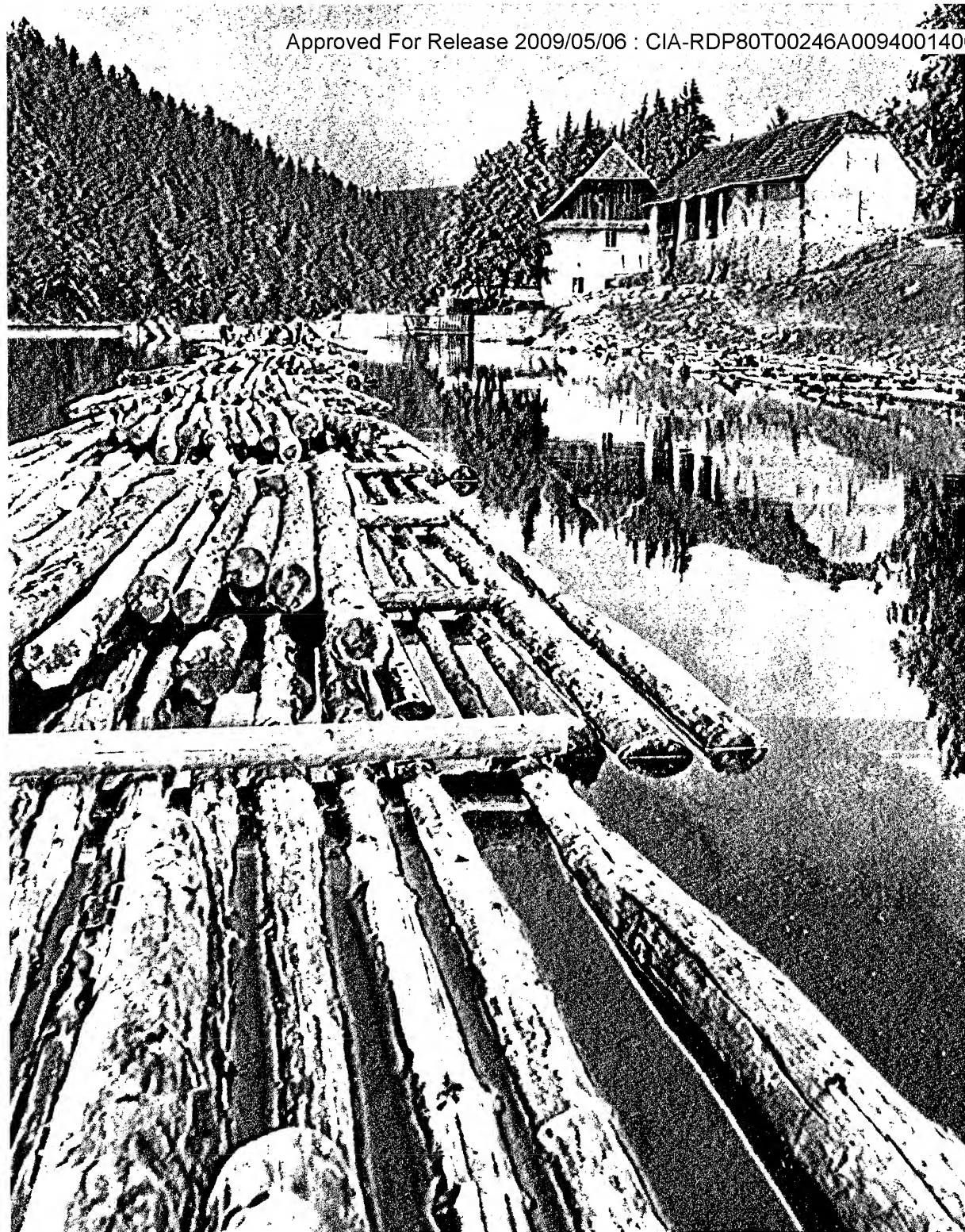


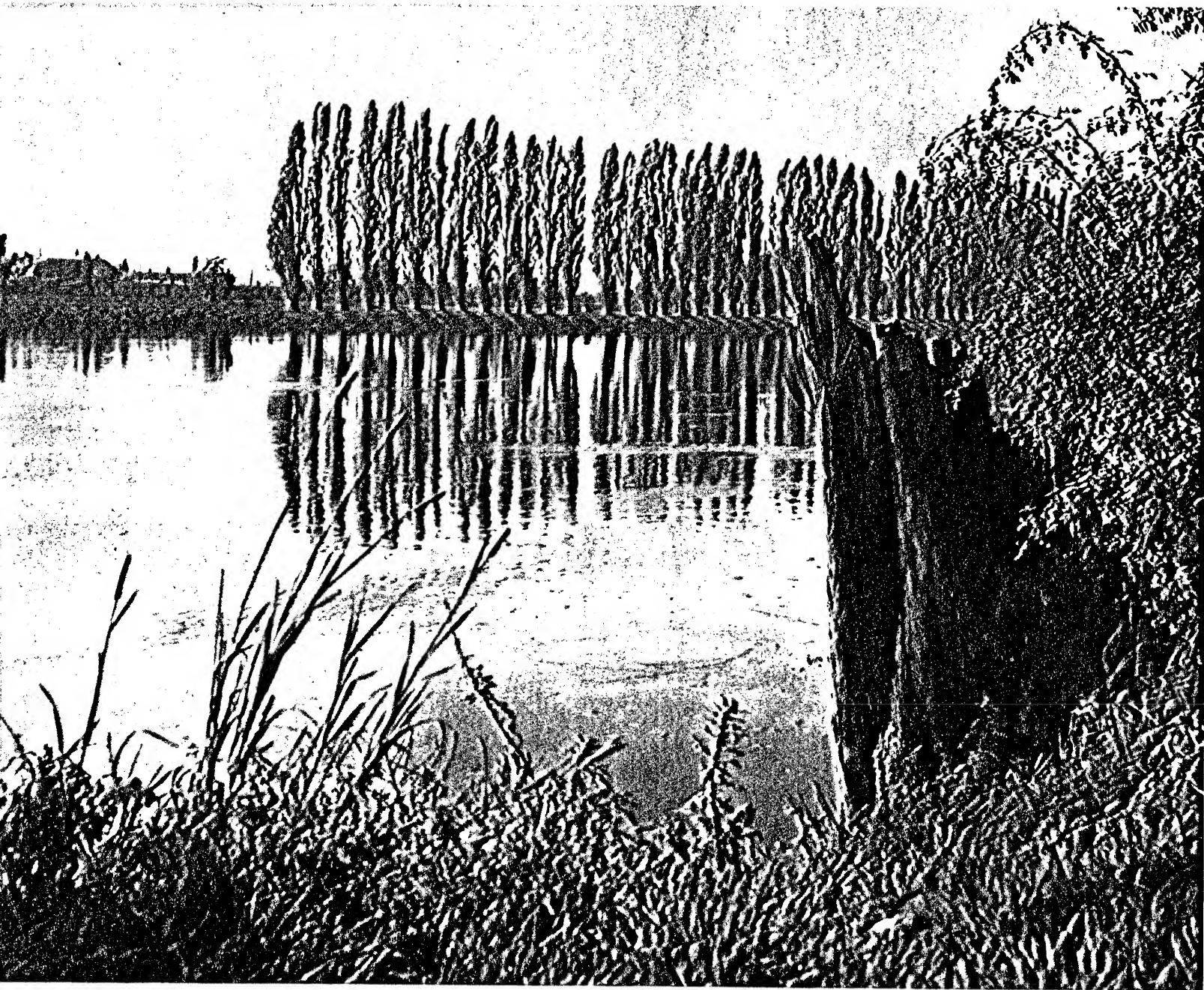




The rising present

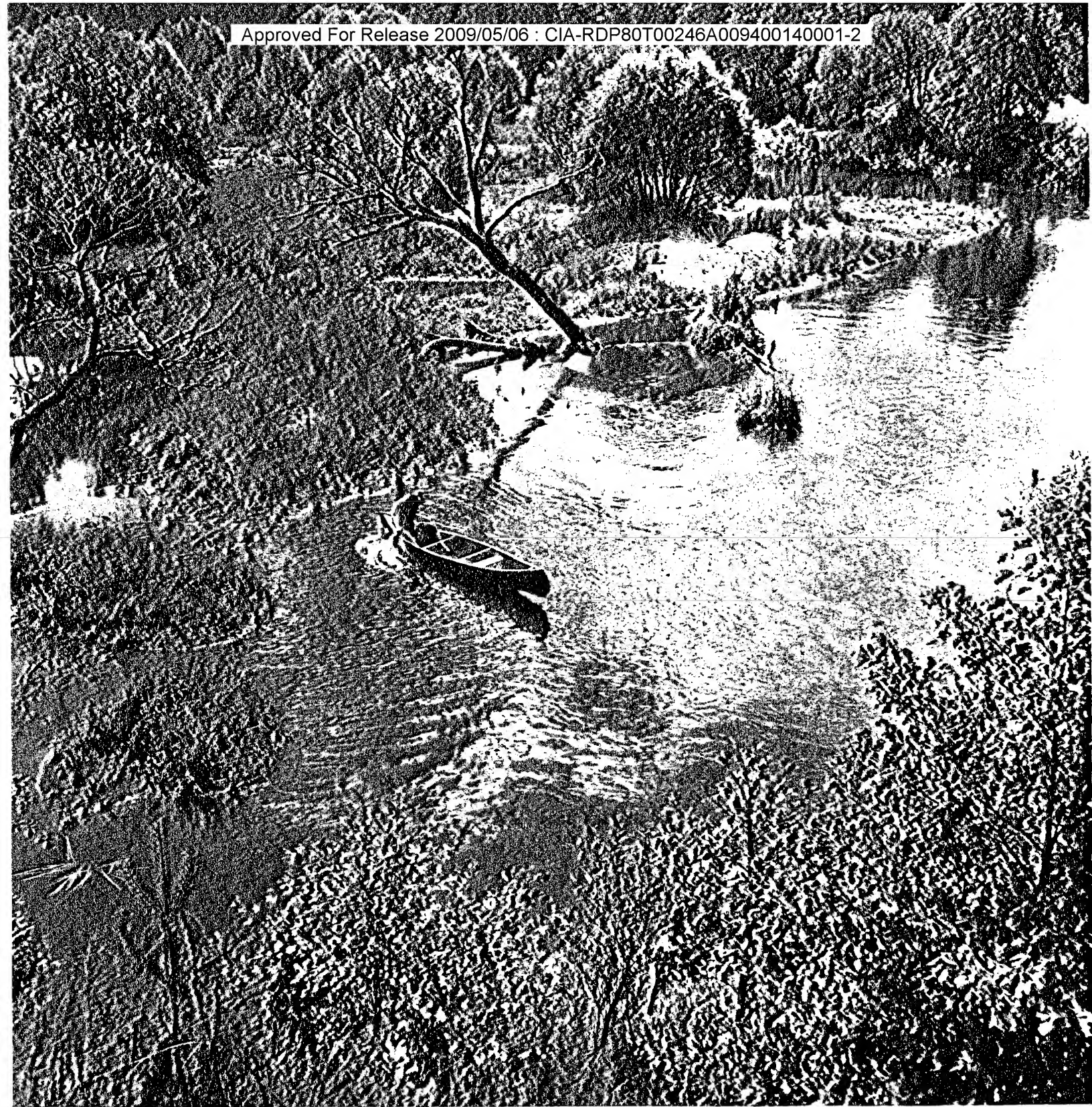


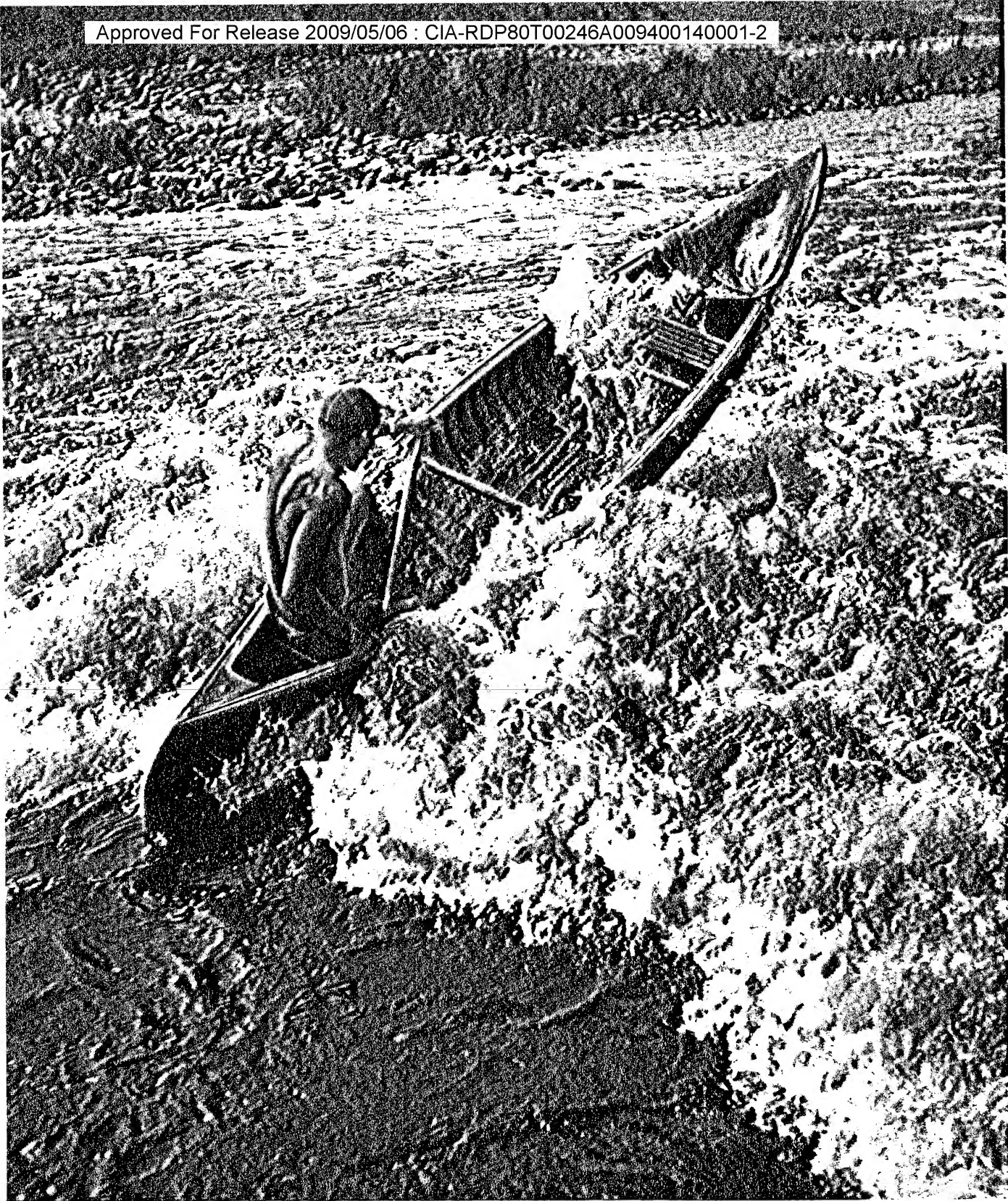




Silent sentinels

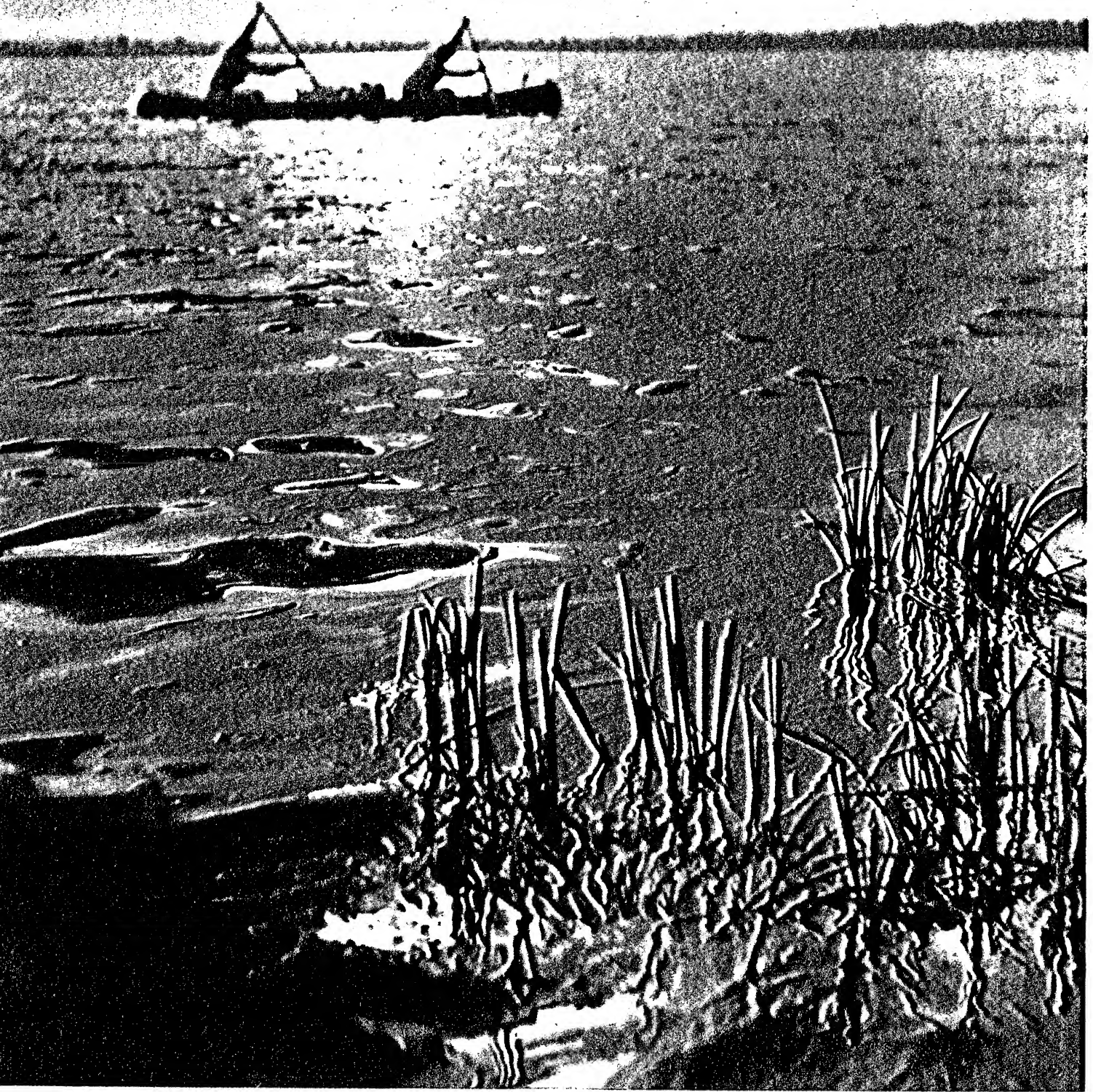


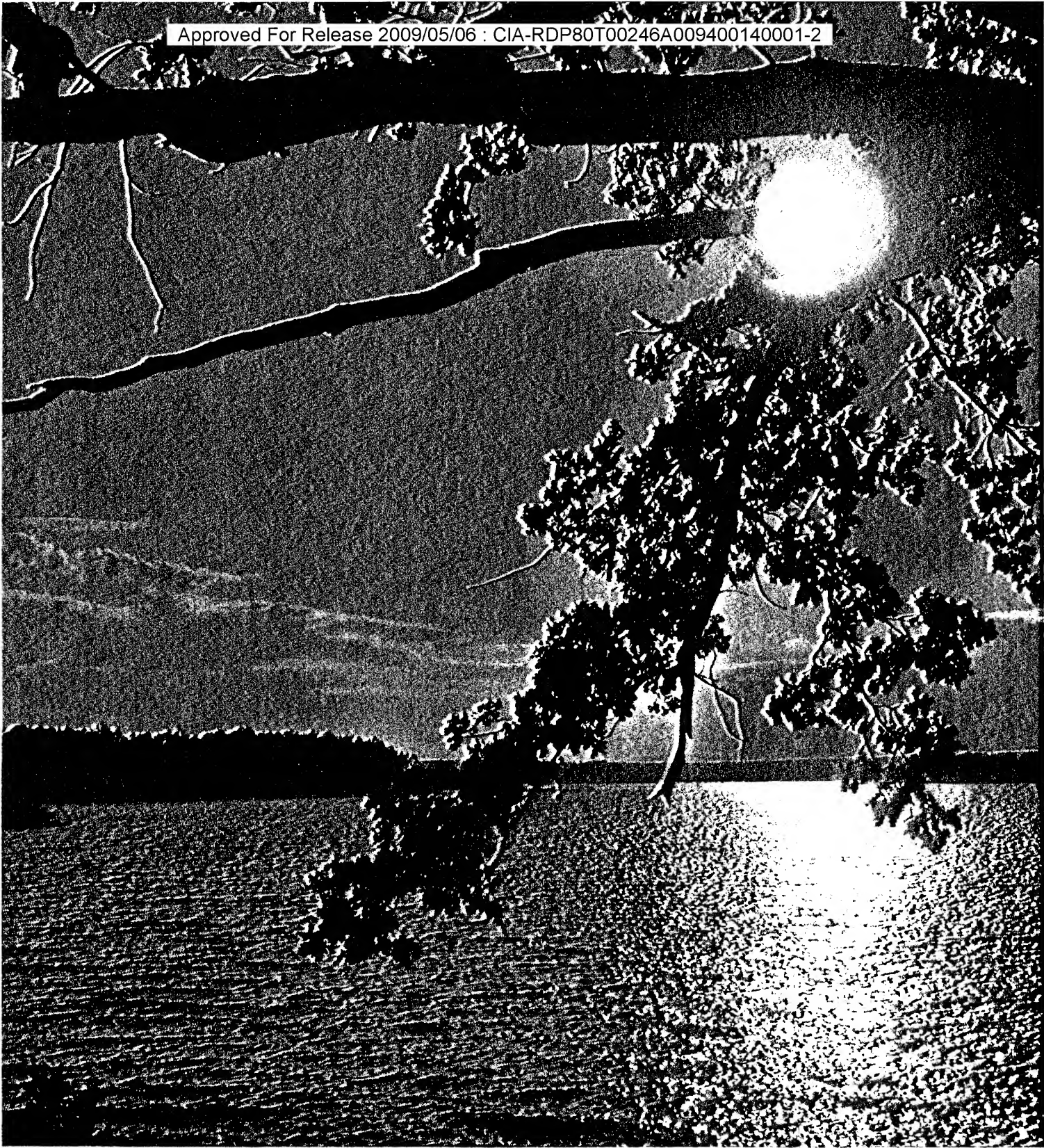




A test of skill







...and Silver





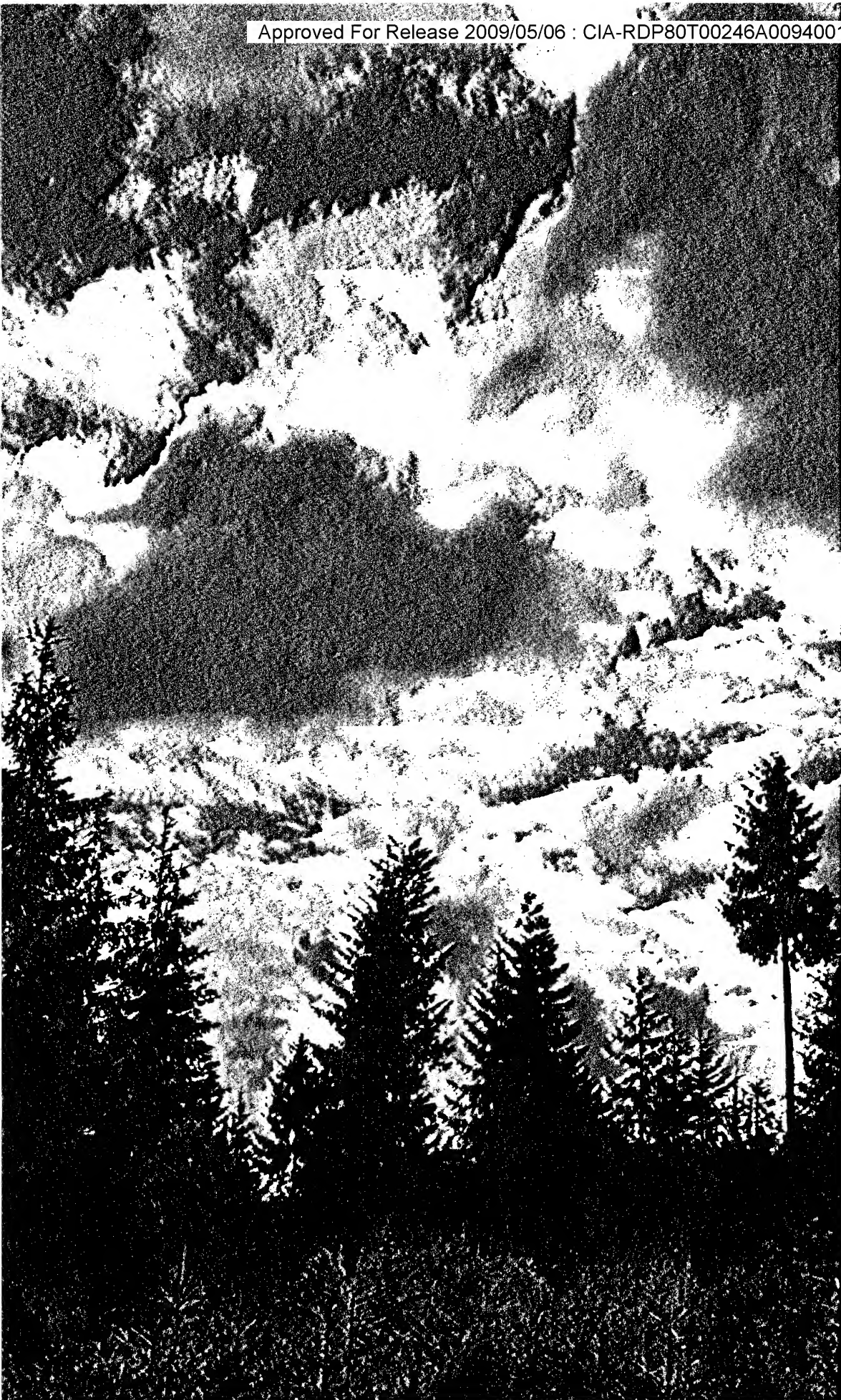


Approved For Release 2009/05/06 : CIA-RDP80T00246A009400140001-2

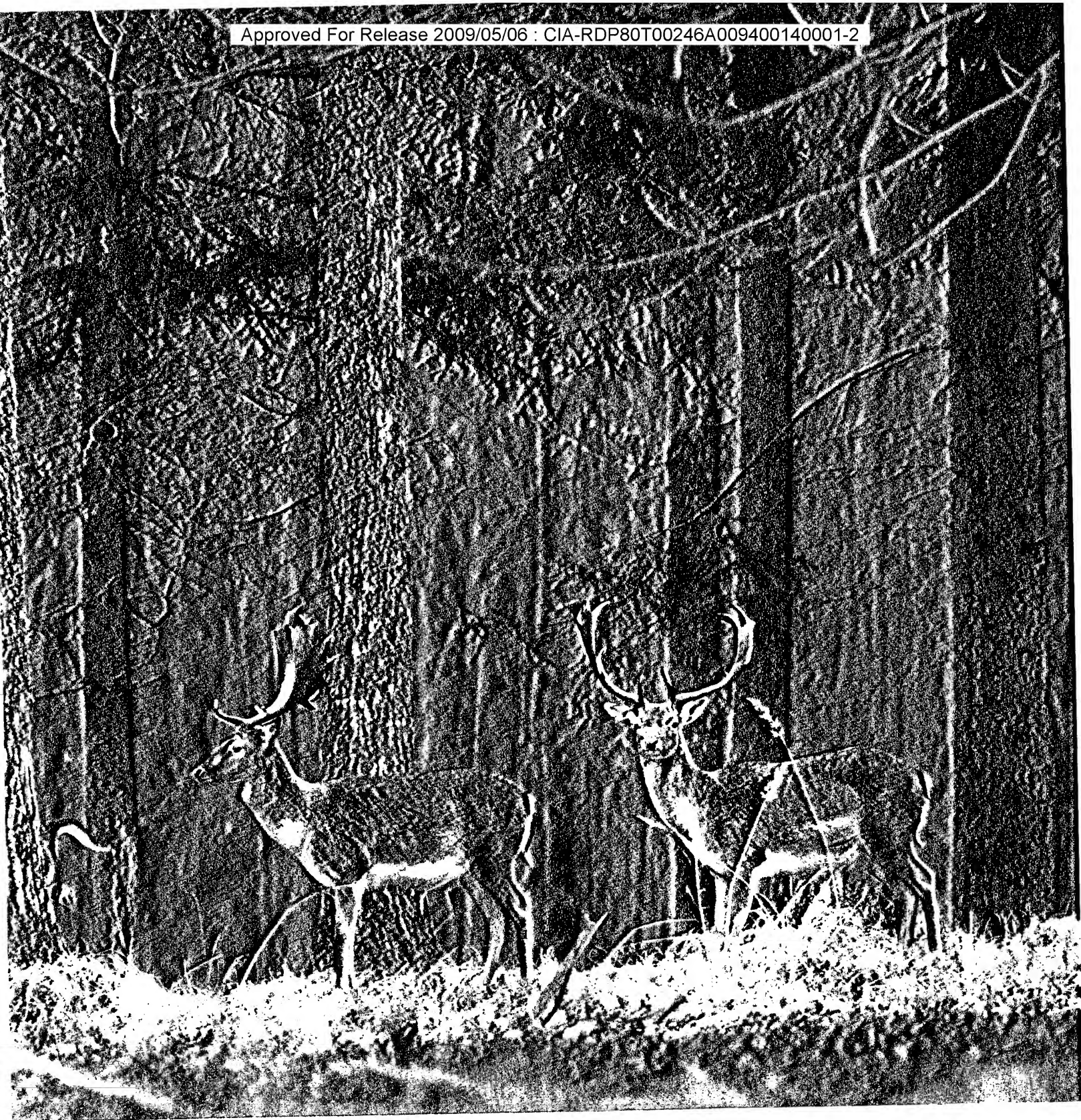


Approved For Release 2009/05/06 : CIA-RDP80T00246A009400140001-2





Stern outlines



Faery forms

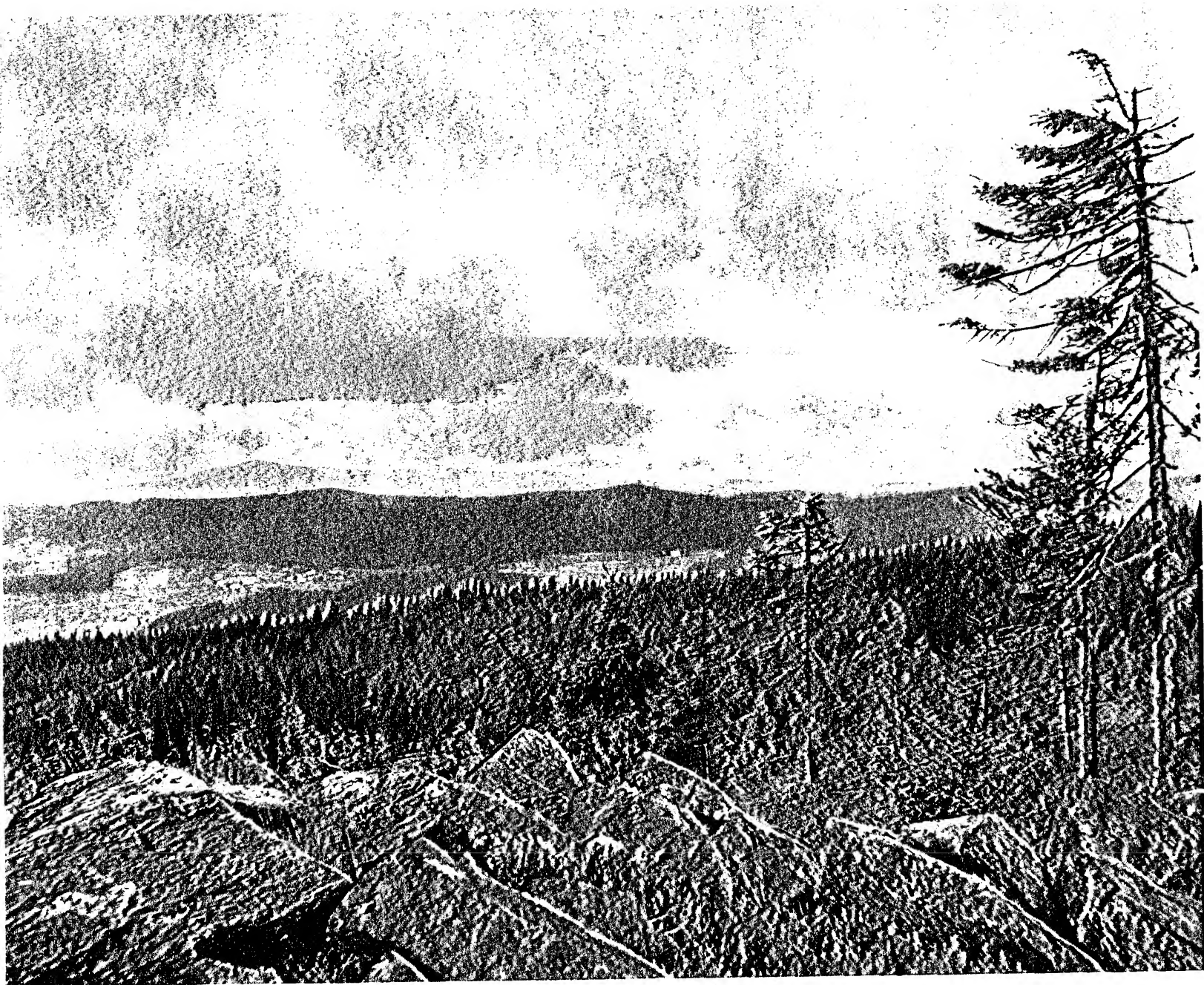






Winter's challenge

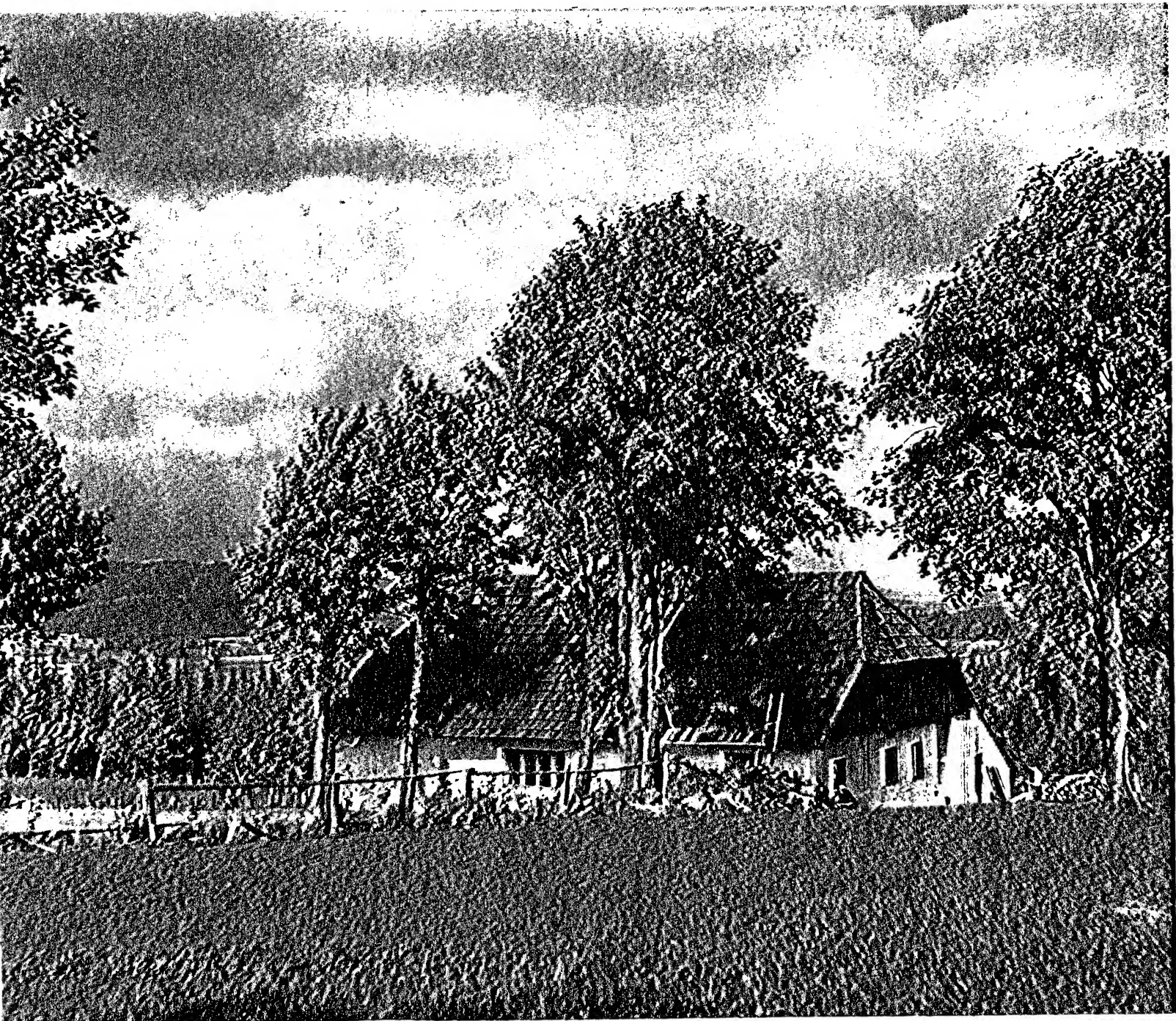


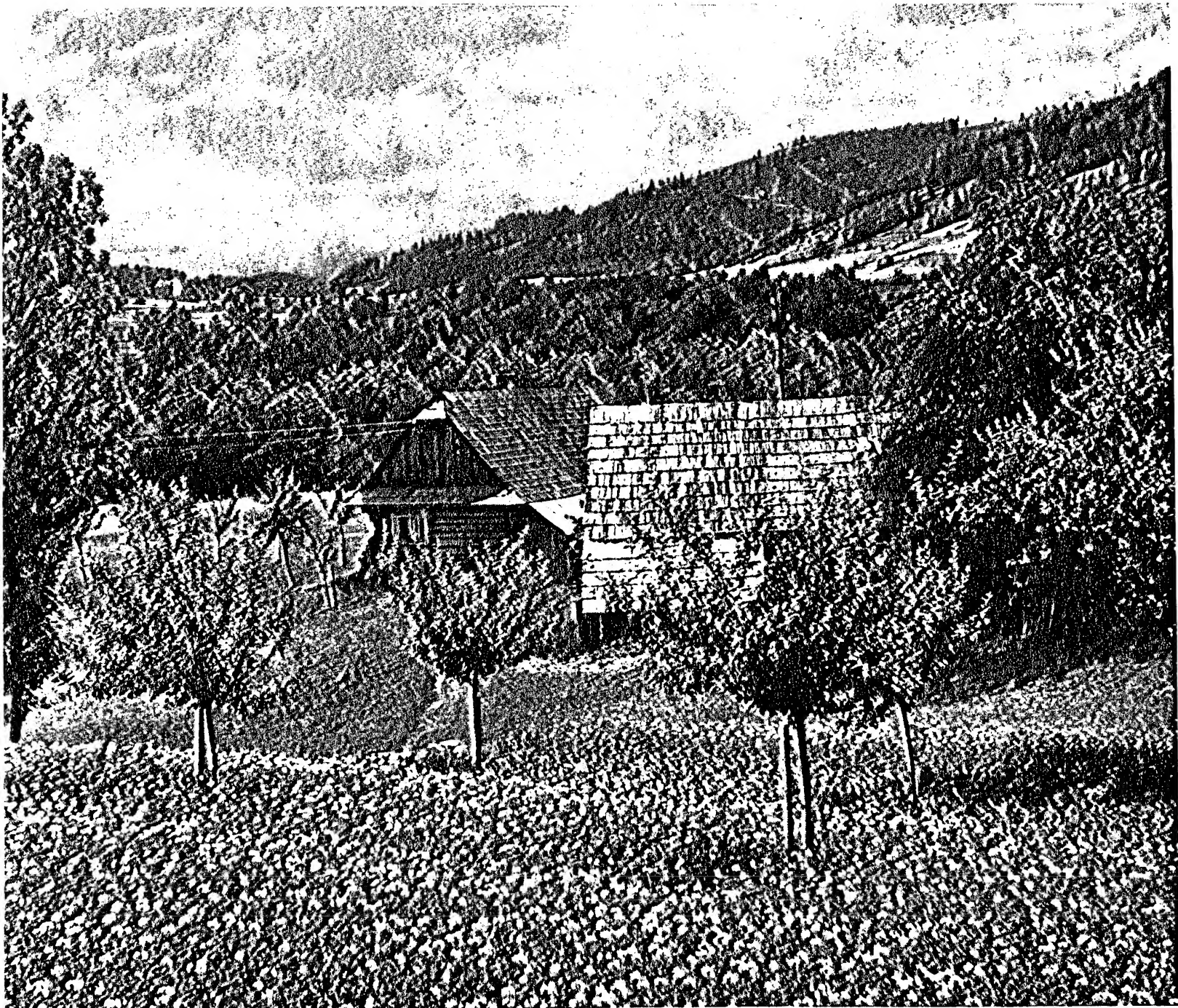




Cheery presence

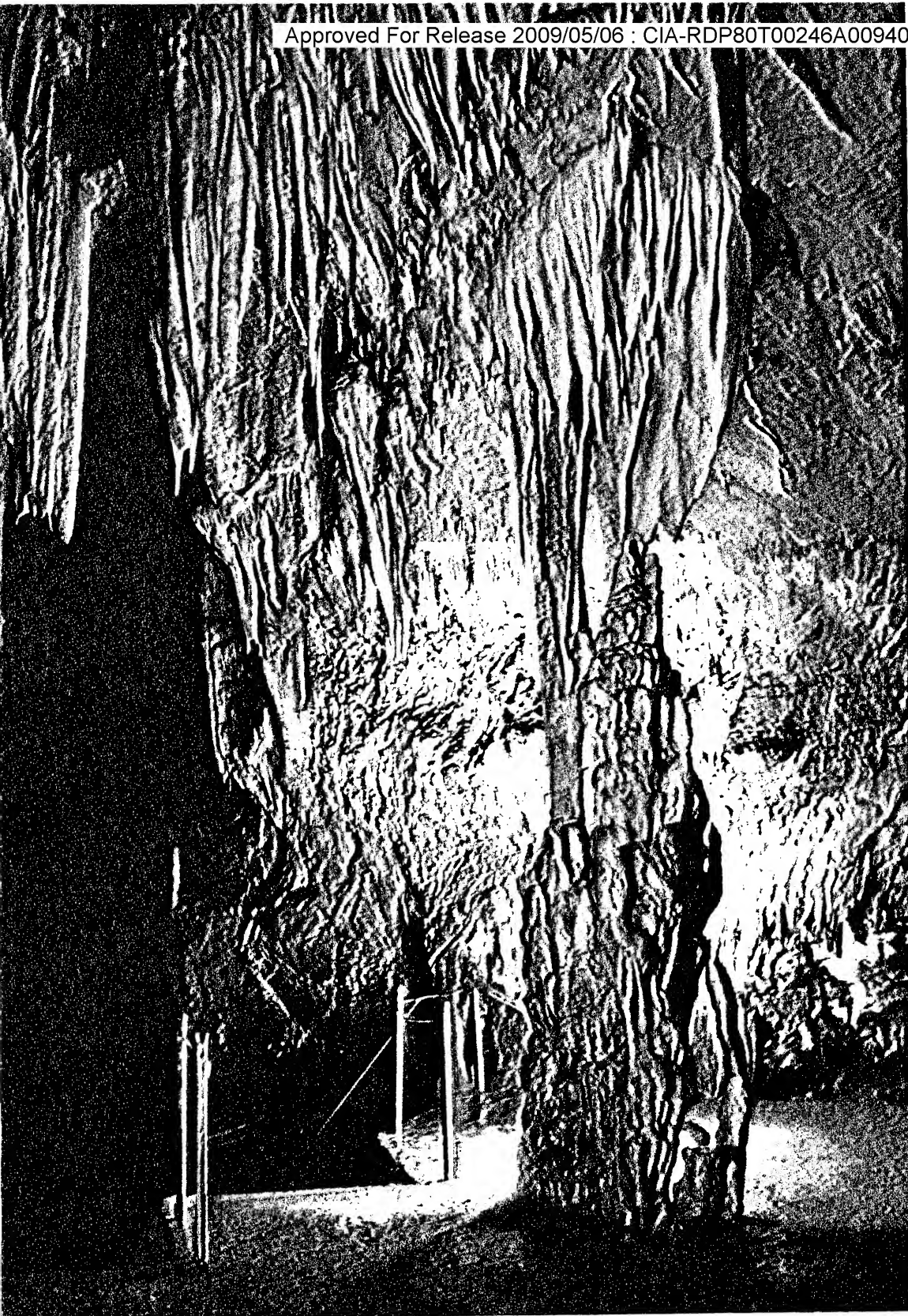




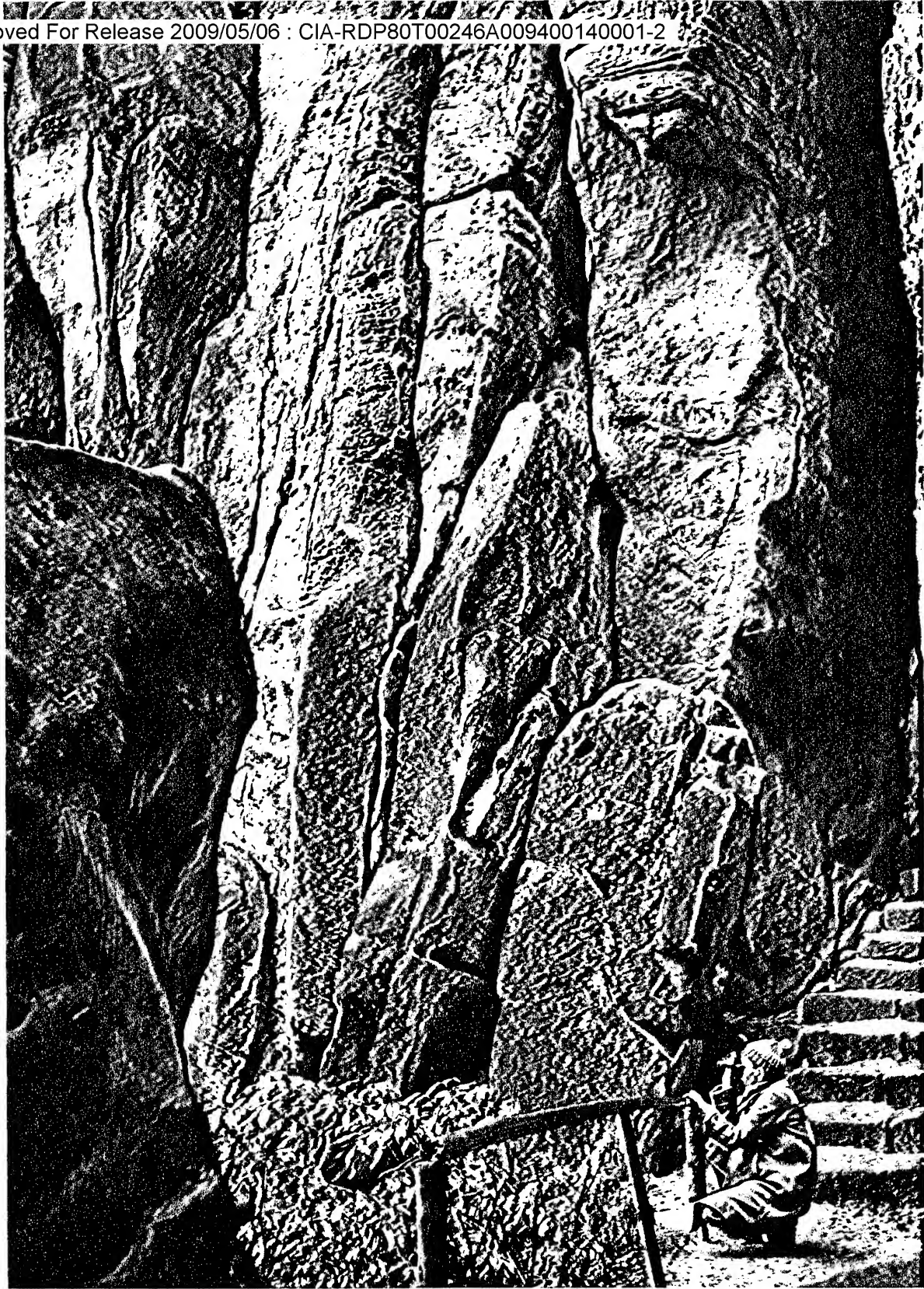


But a carpet of flowers, right up to the window





The beauty of the depths



The thrill of the heights

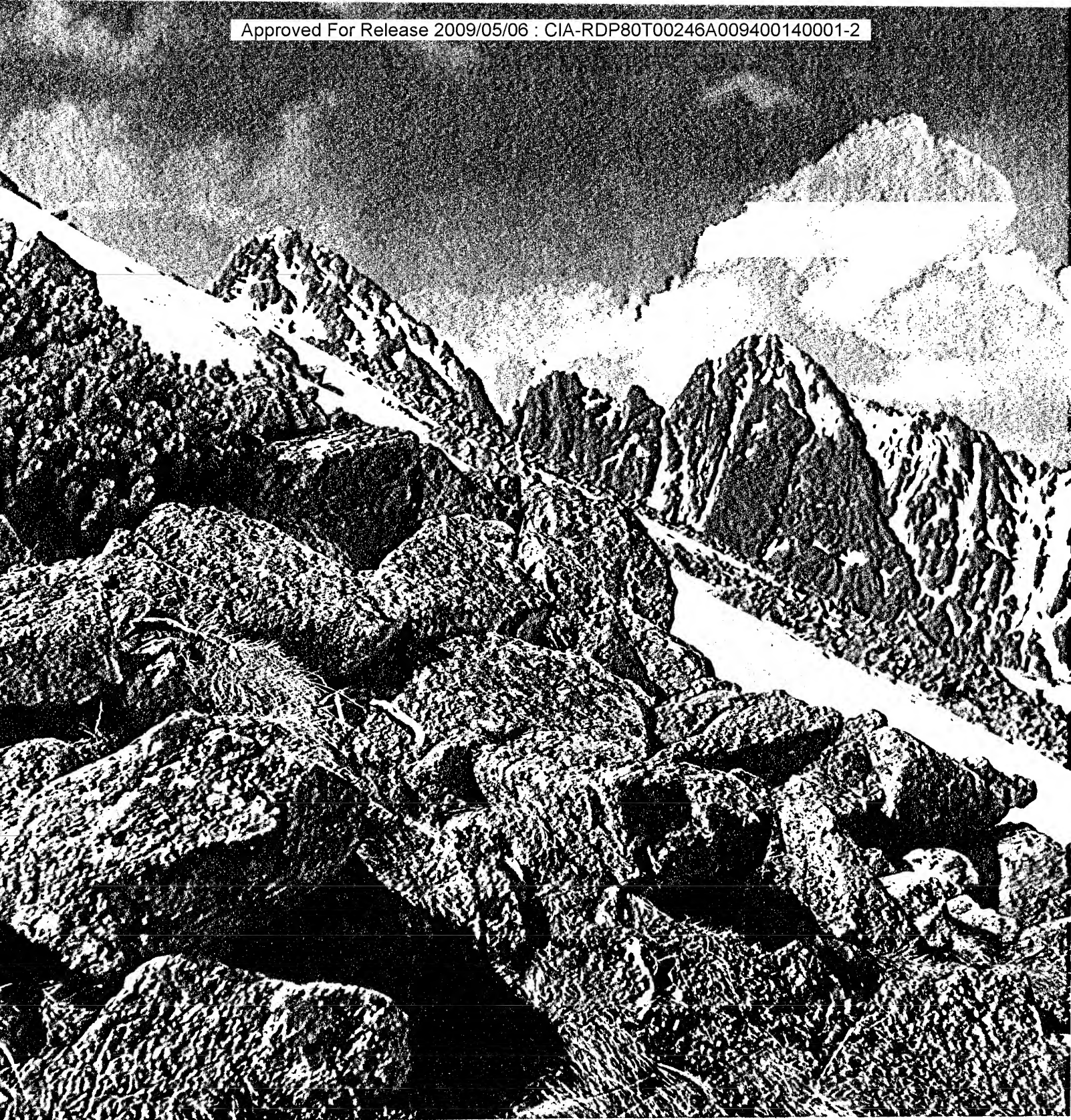






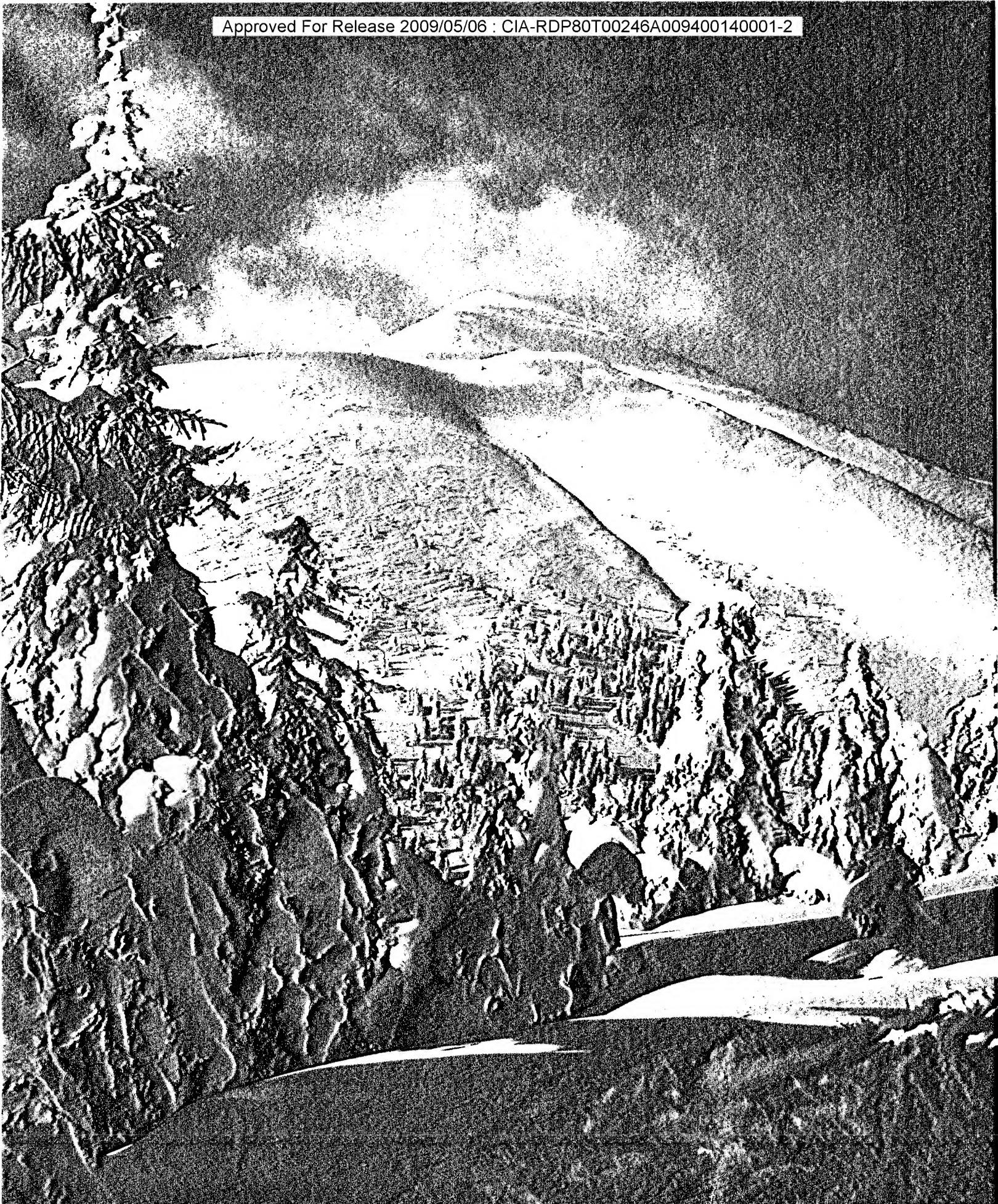
...but skis announce the presence of man





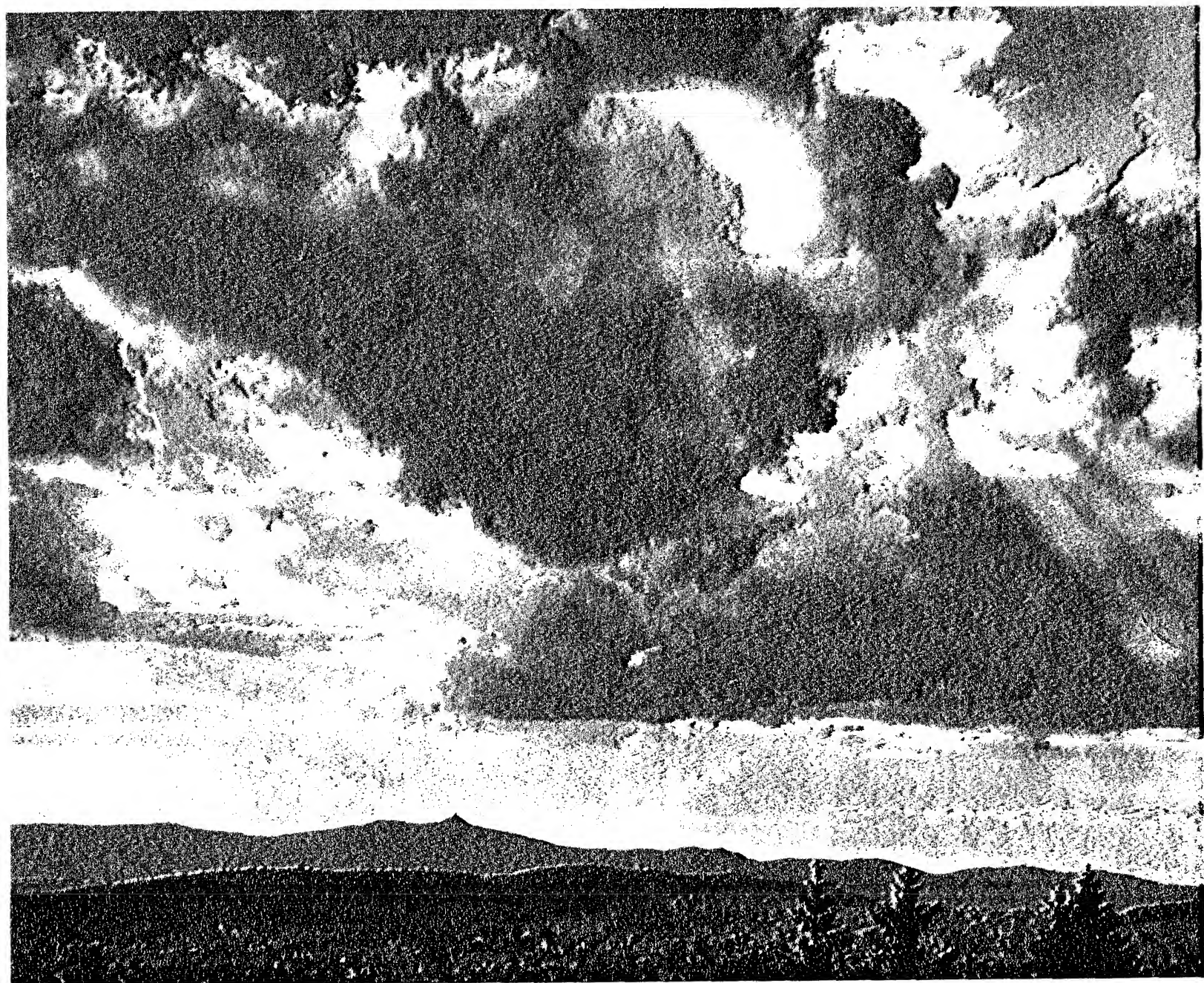


Approved For Release 2009/05/06 : CIA-RDP80T00246A009400140001-2



Approved For Release 2009/05/06 : CIA-RDP80T00246A009400140001-2

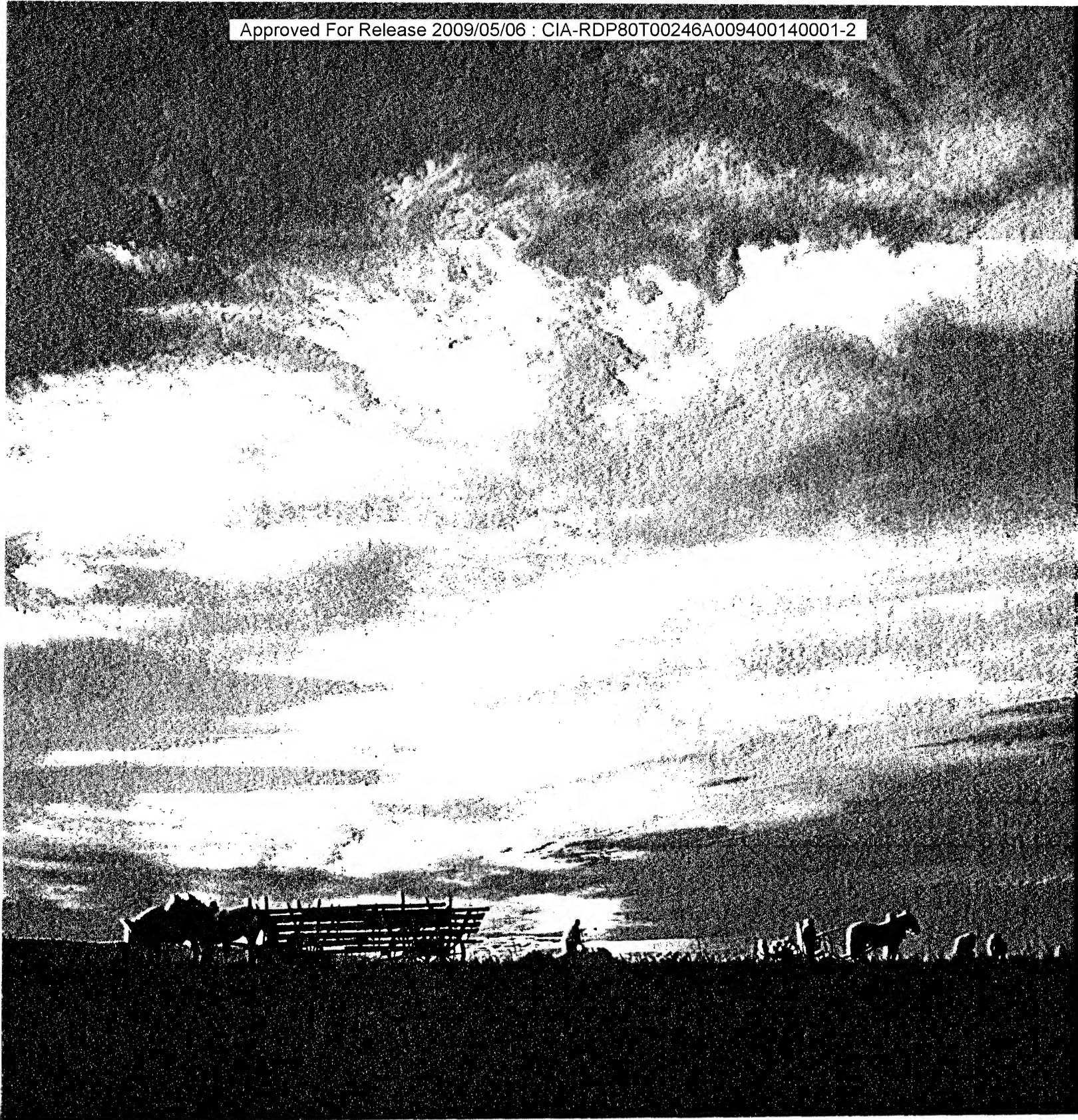


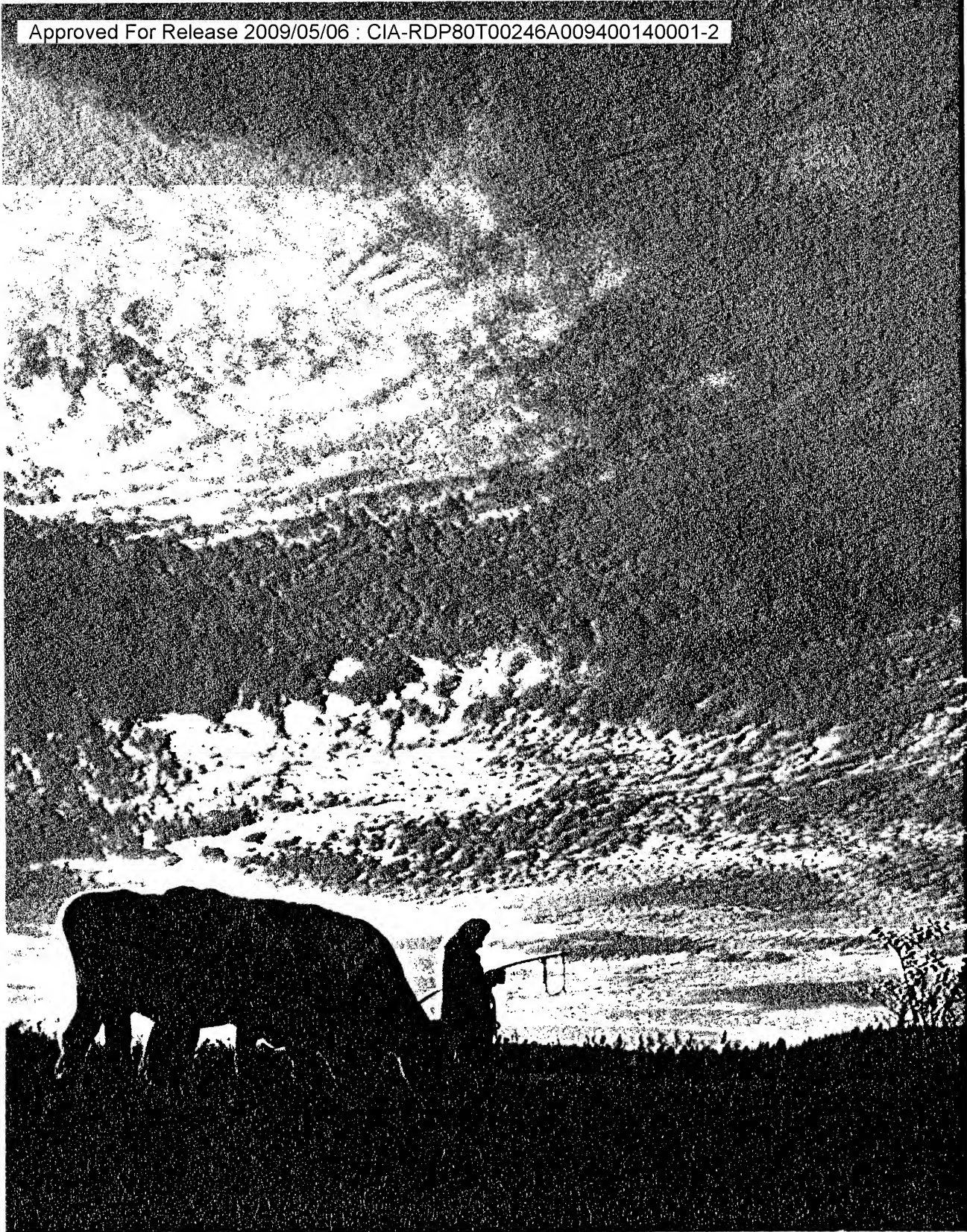




Smiling earth







Timeless beauty





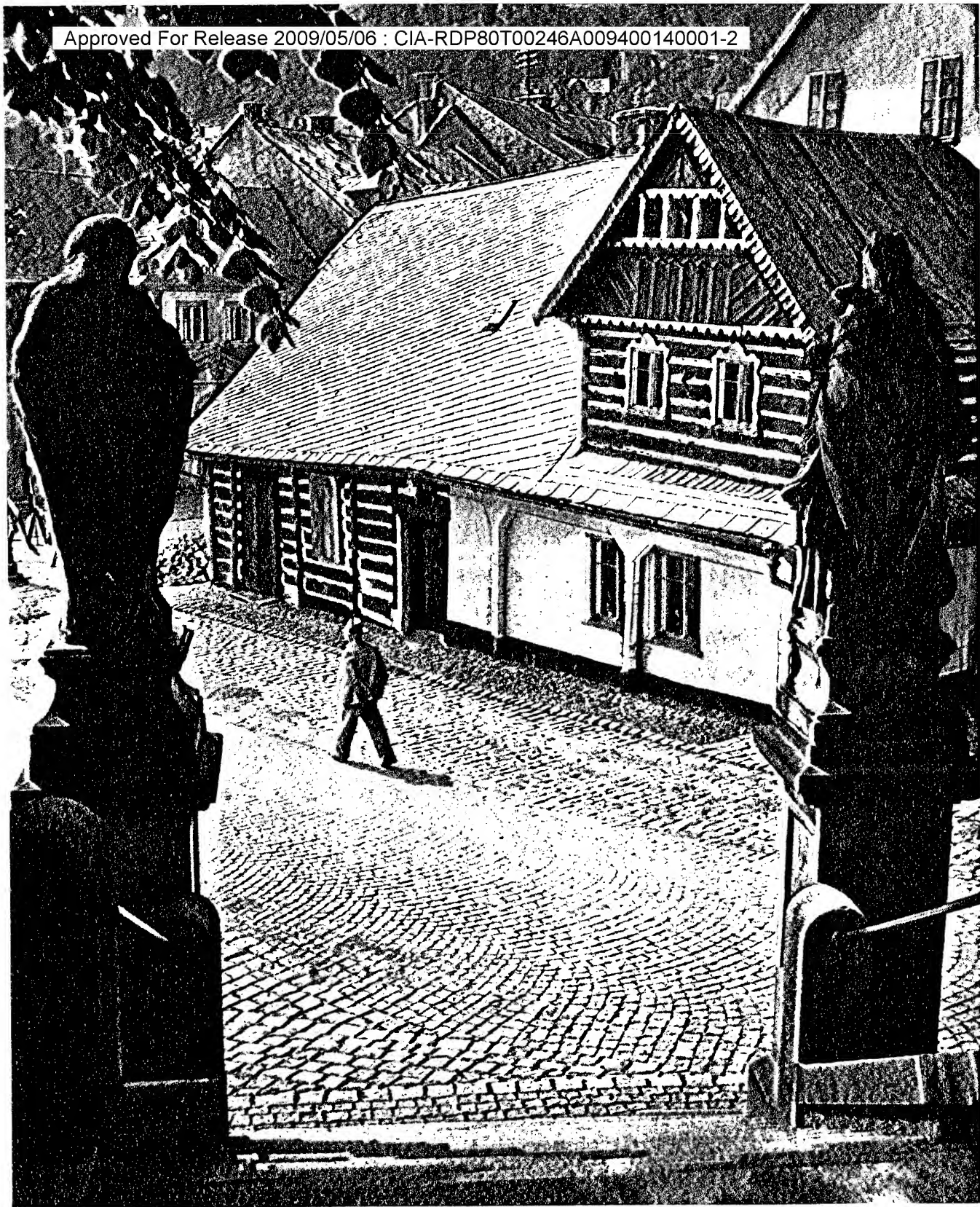




The homes of hard-working people



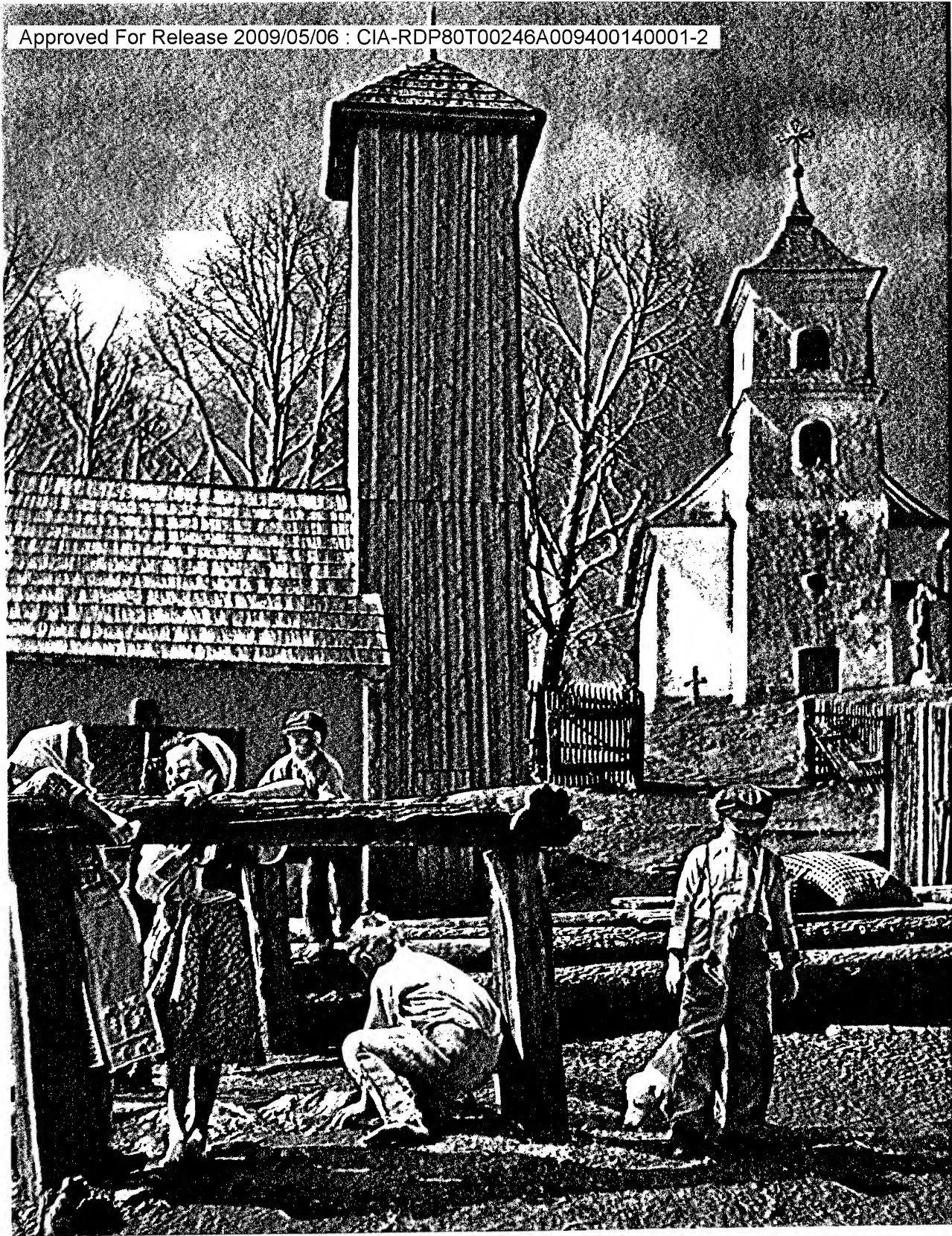




Black and White Beauty

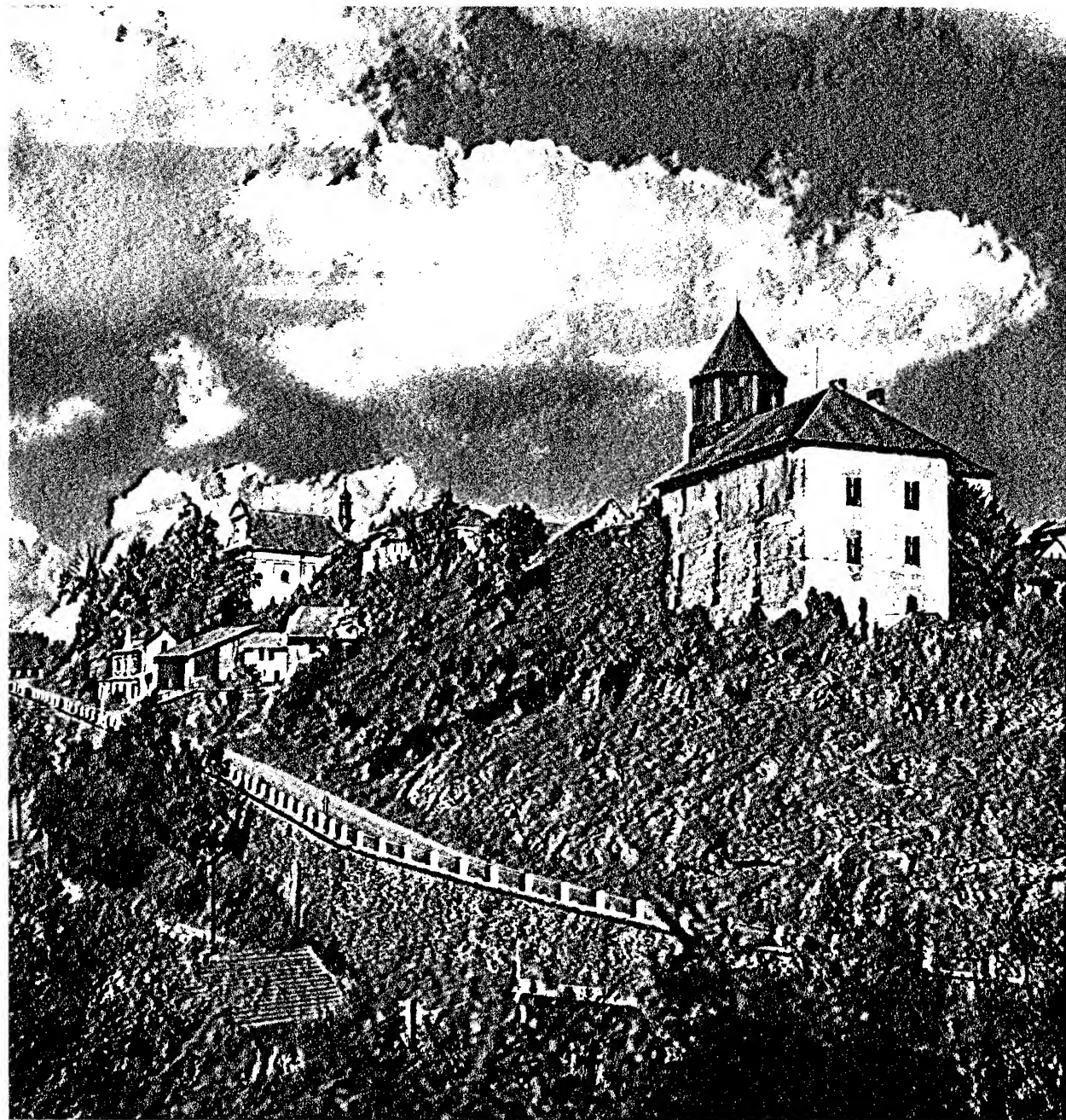






The charm of innocence







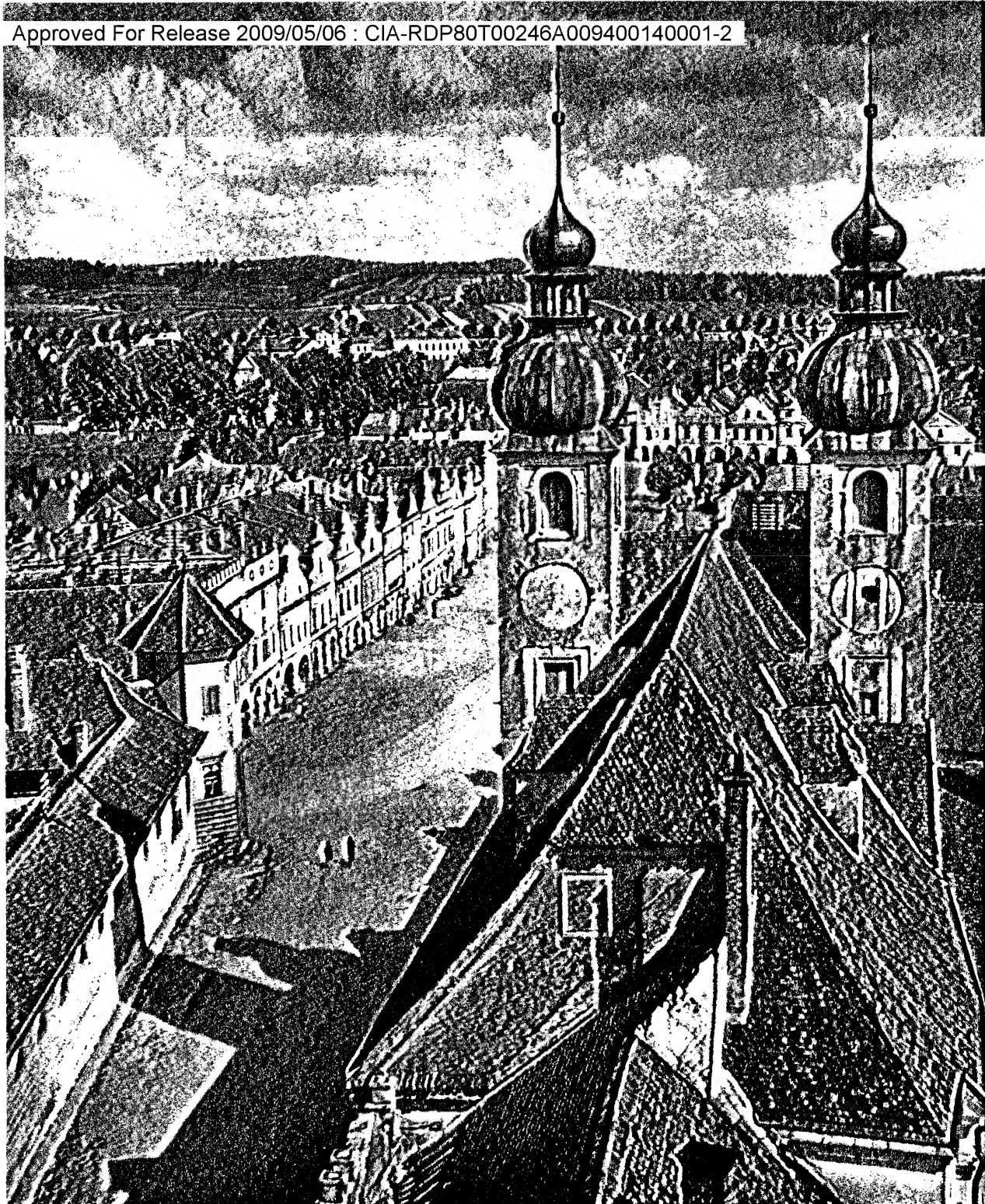


...preening itself in the water-mirror

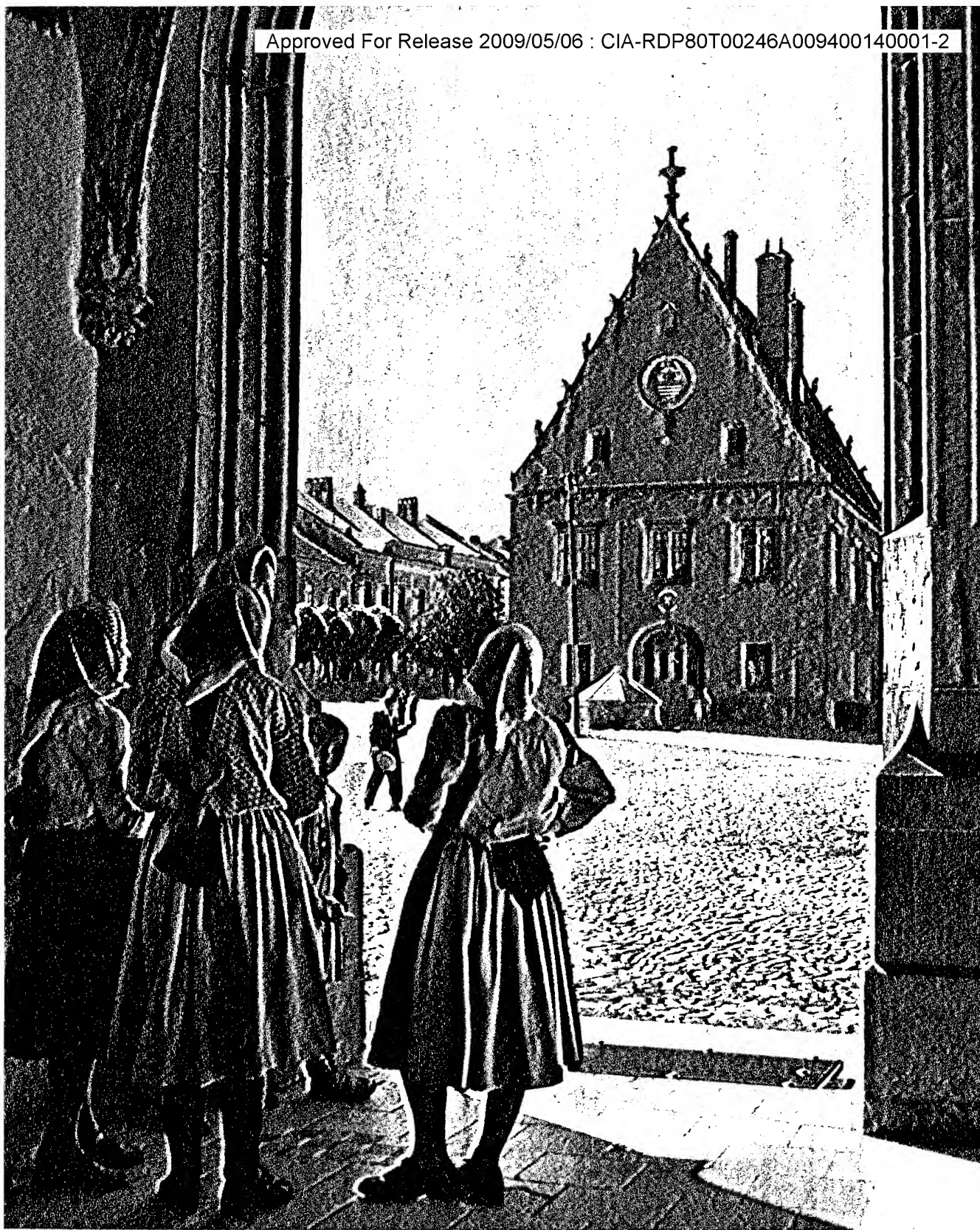
41



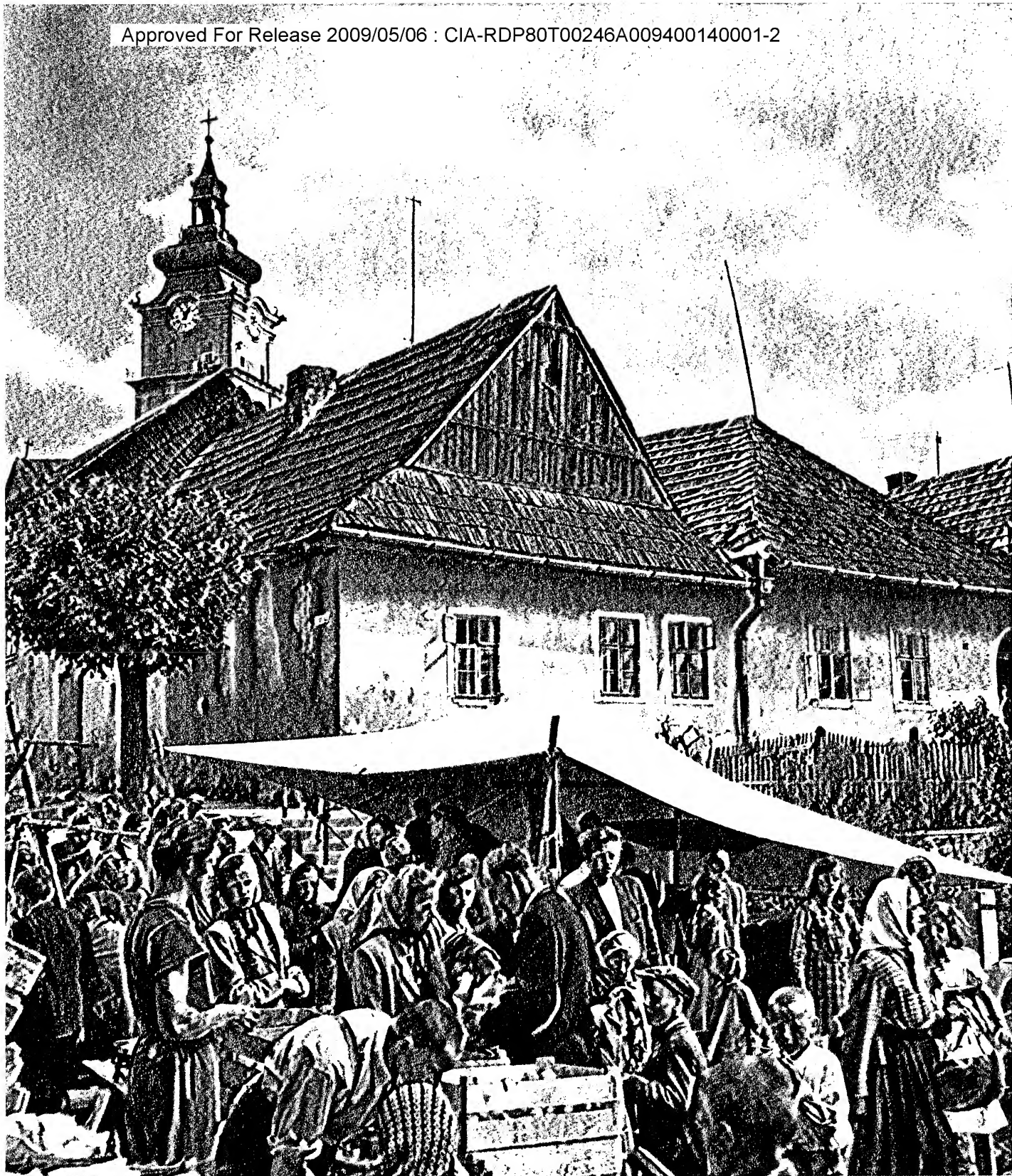




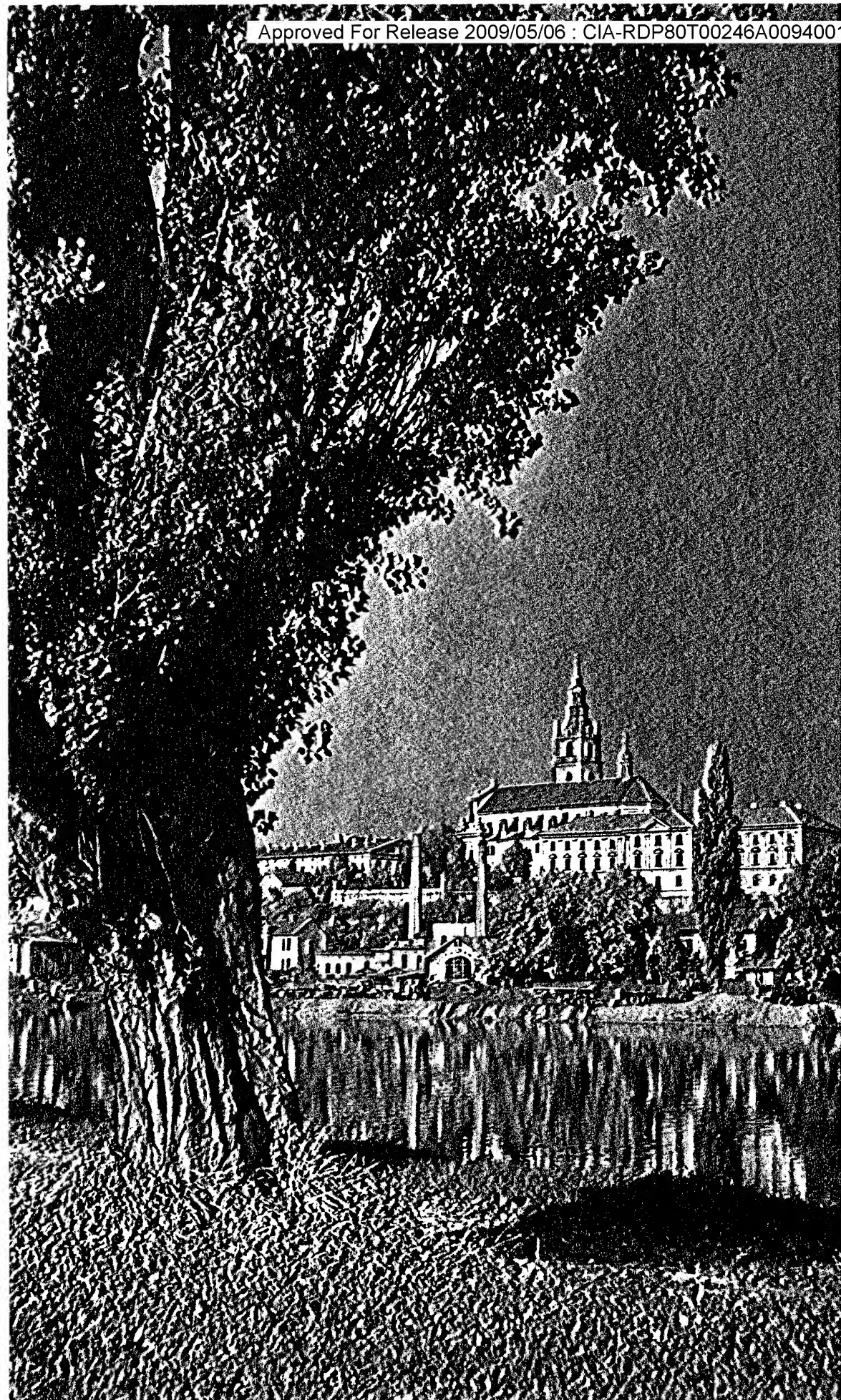
...even from a bird's eye view





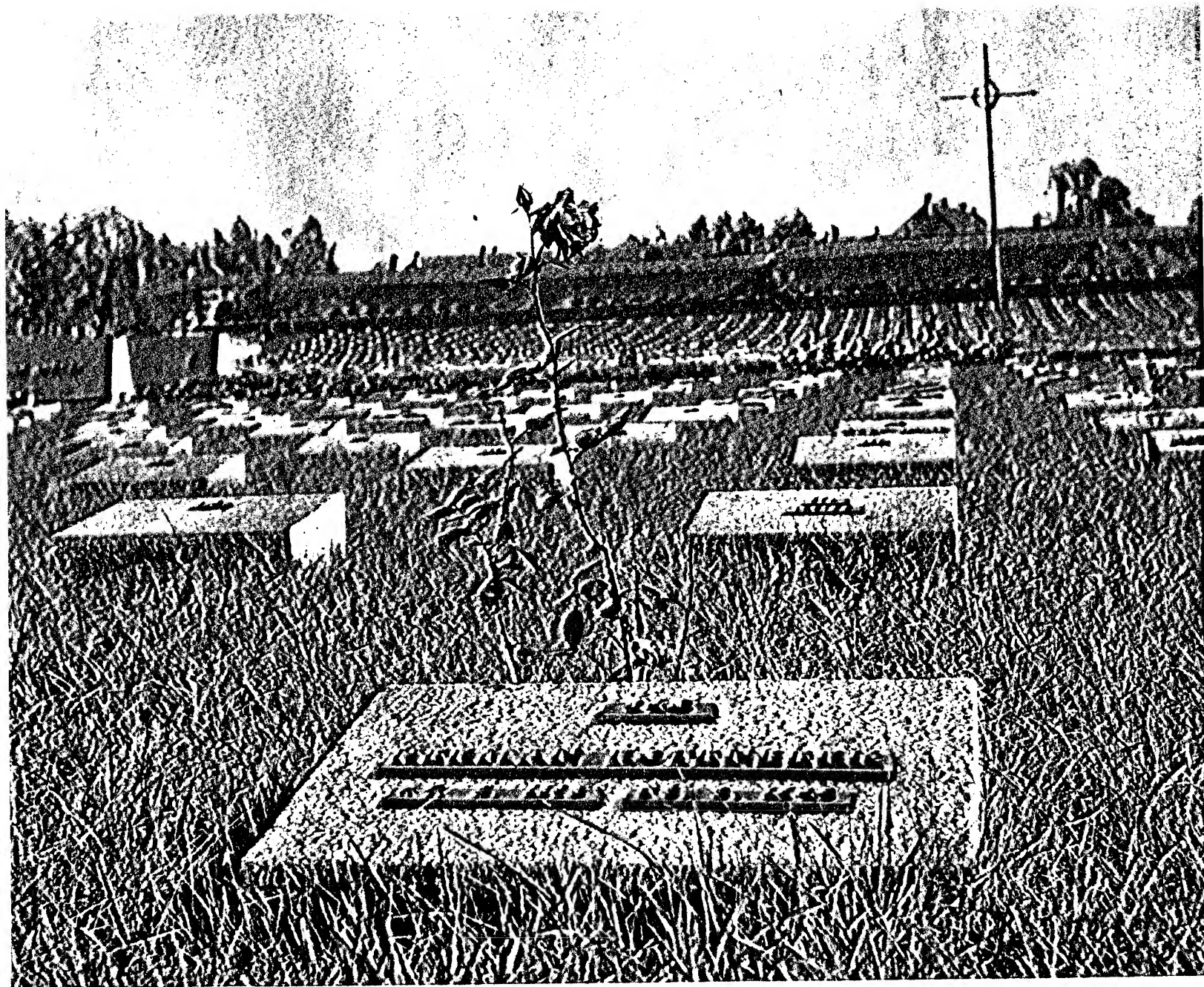


But the daily round is important

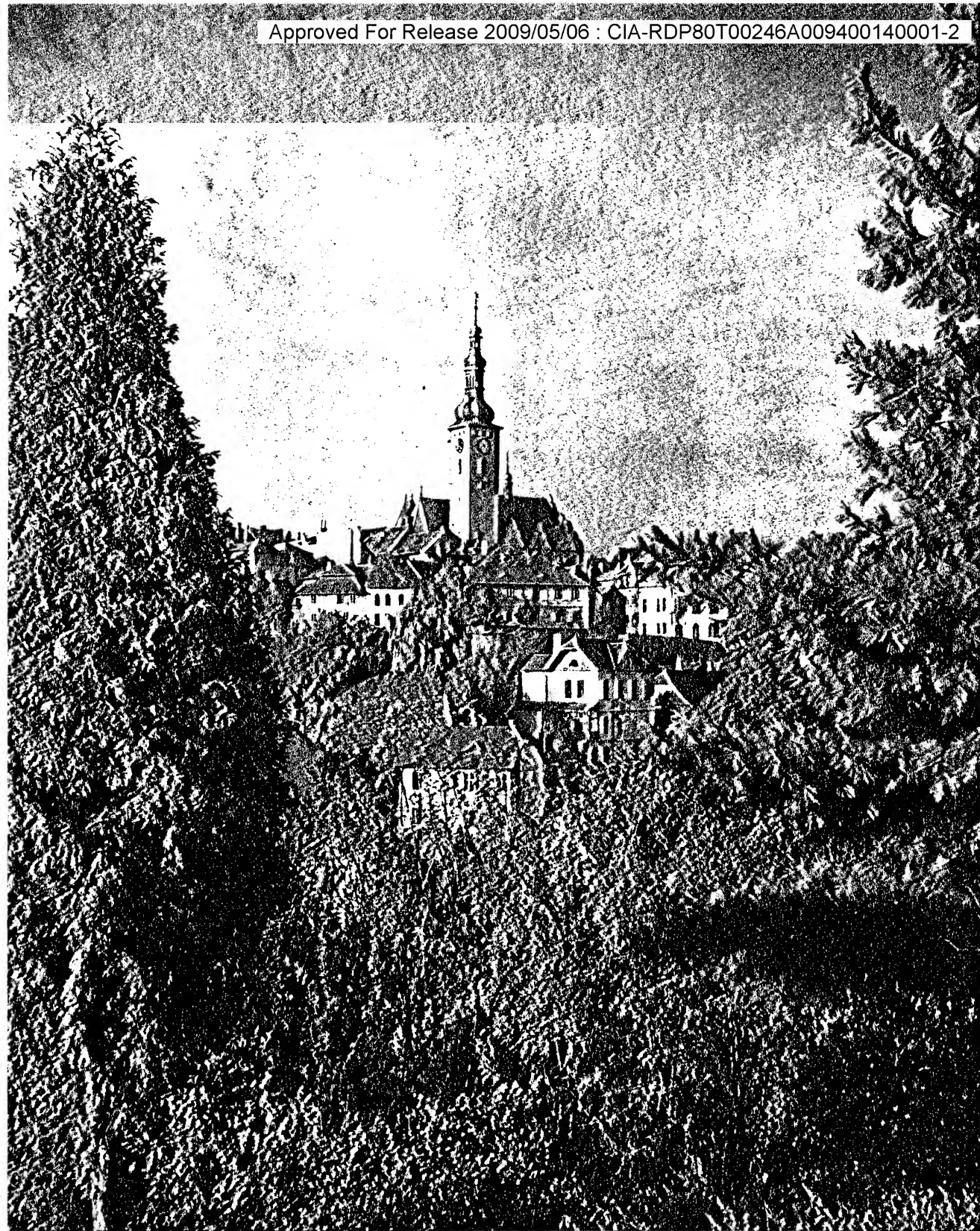


The seat of the Bishops  
should ring with prayers

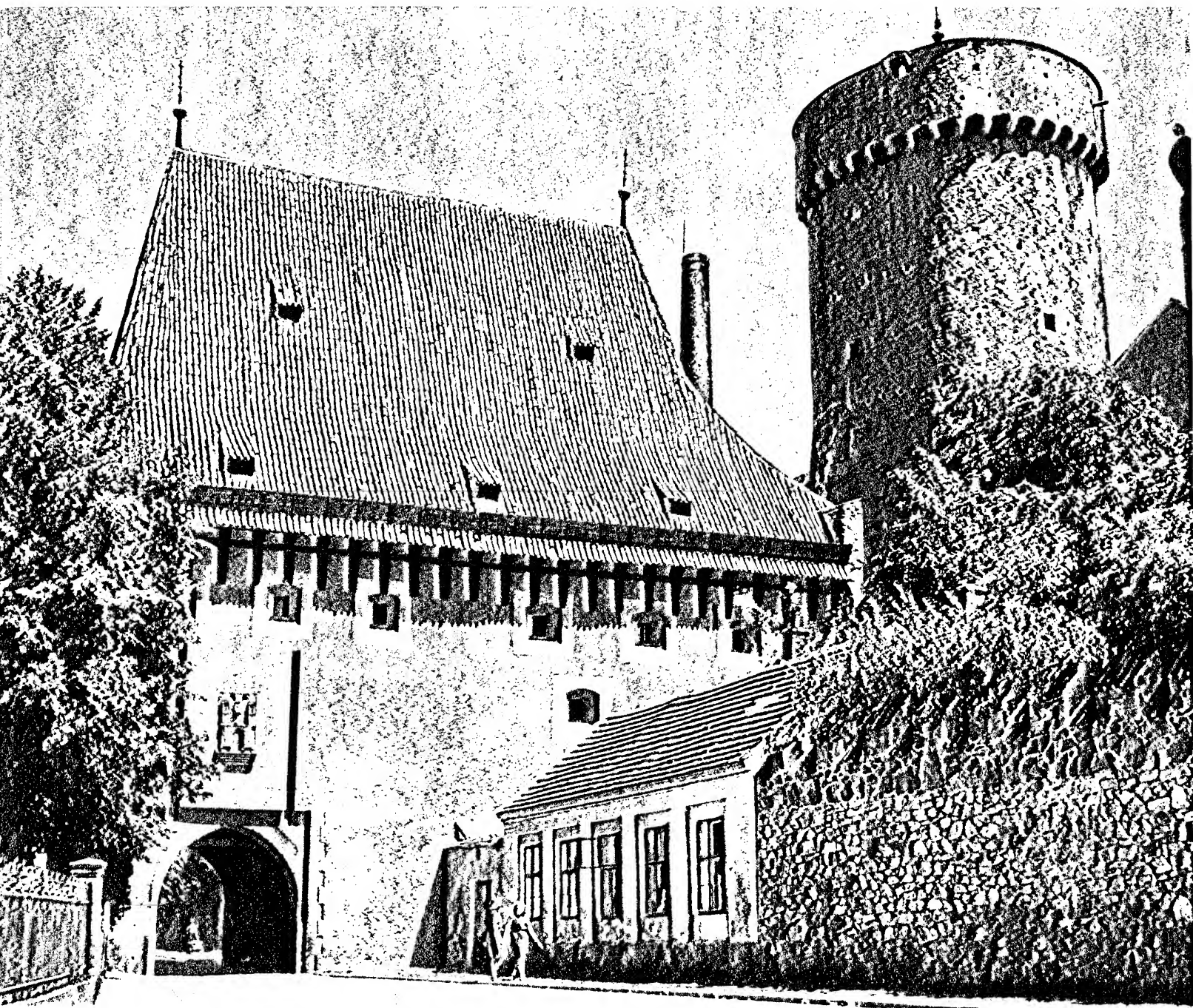




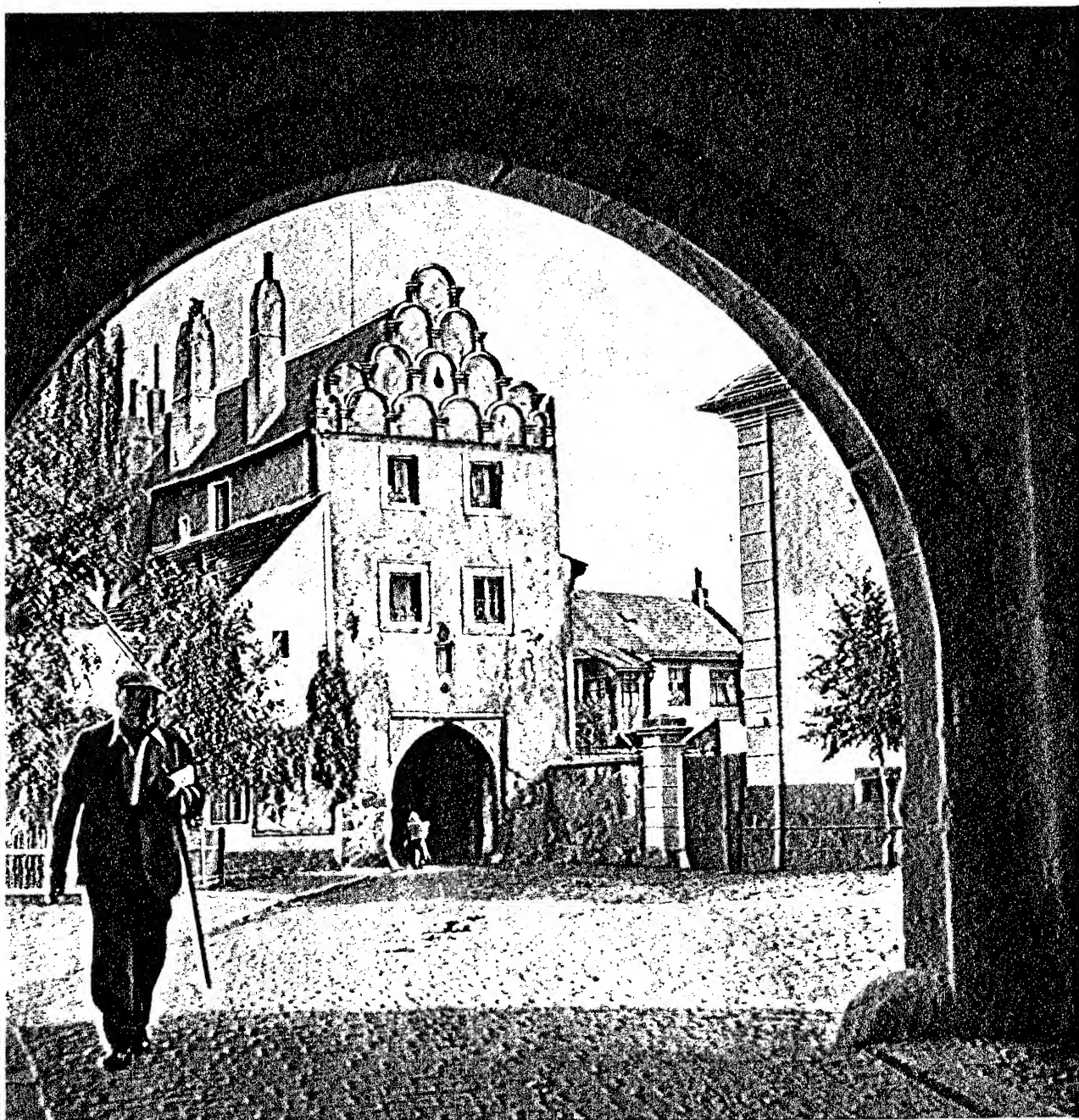
...for the victims of the war in the National Cemetery



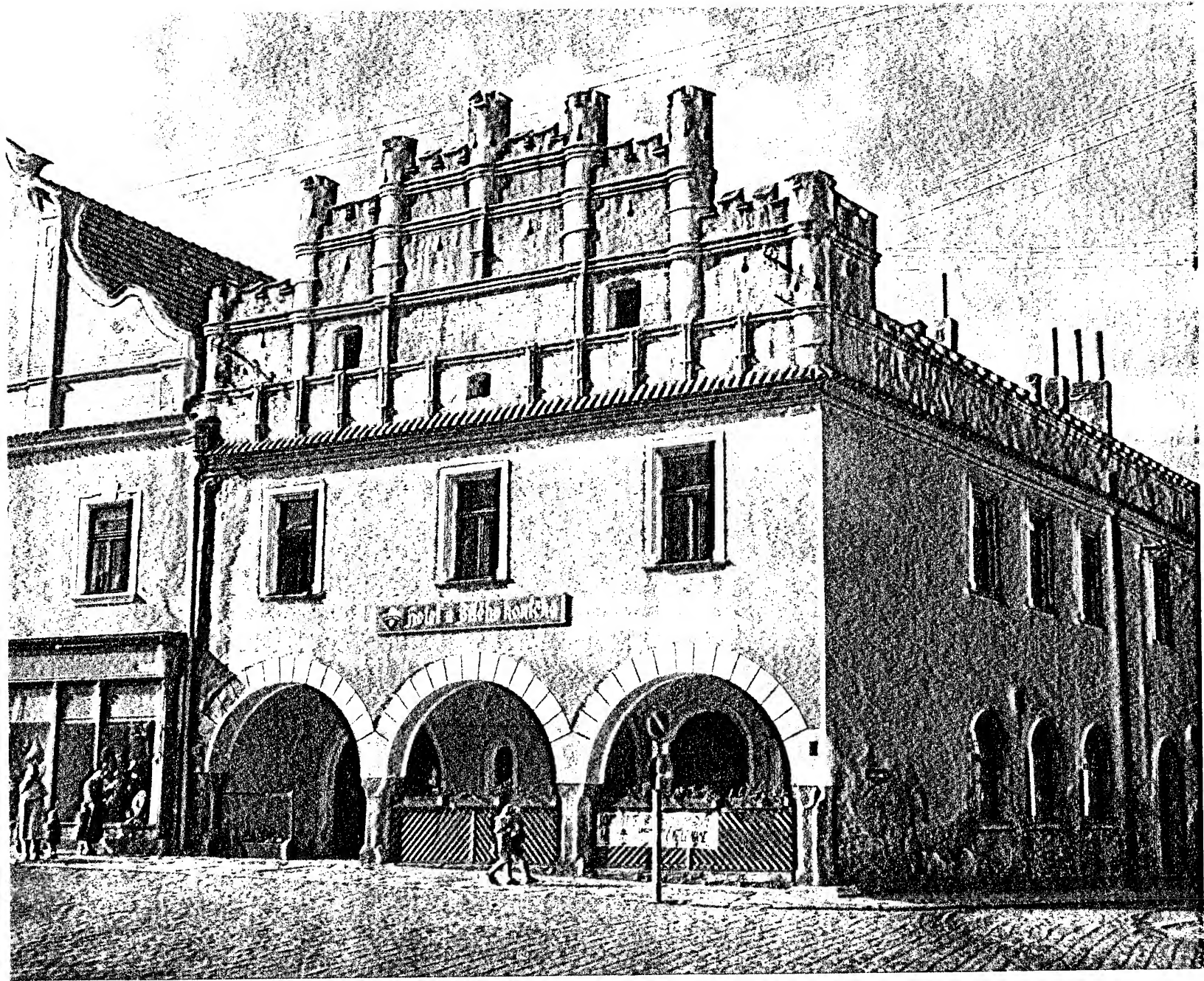




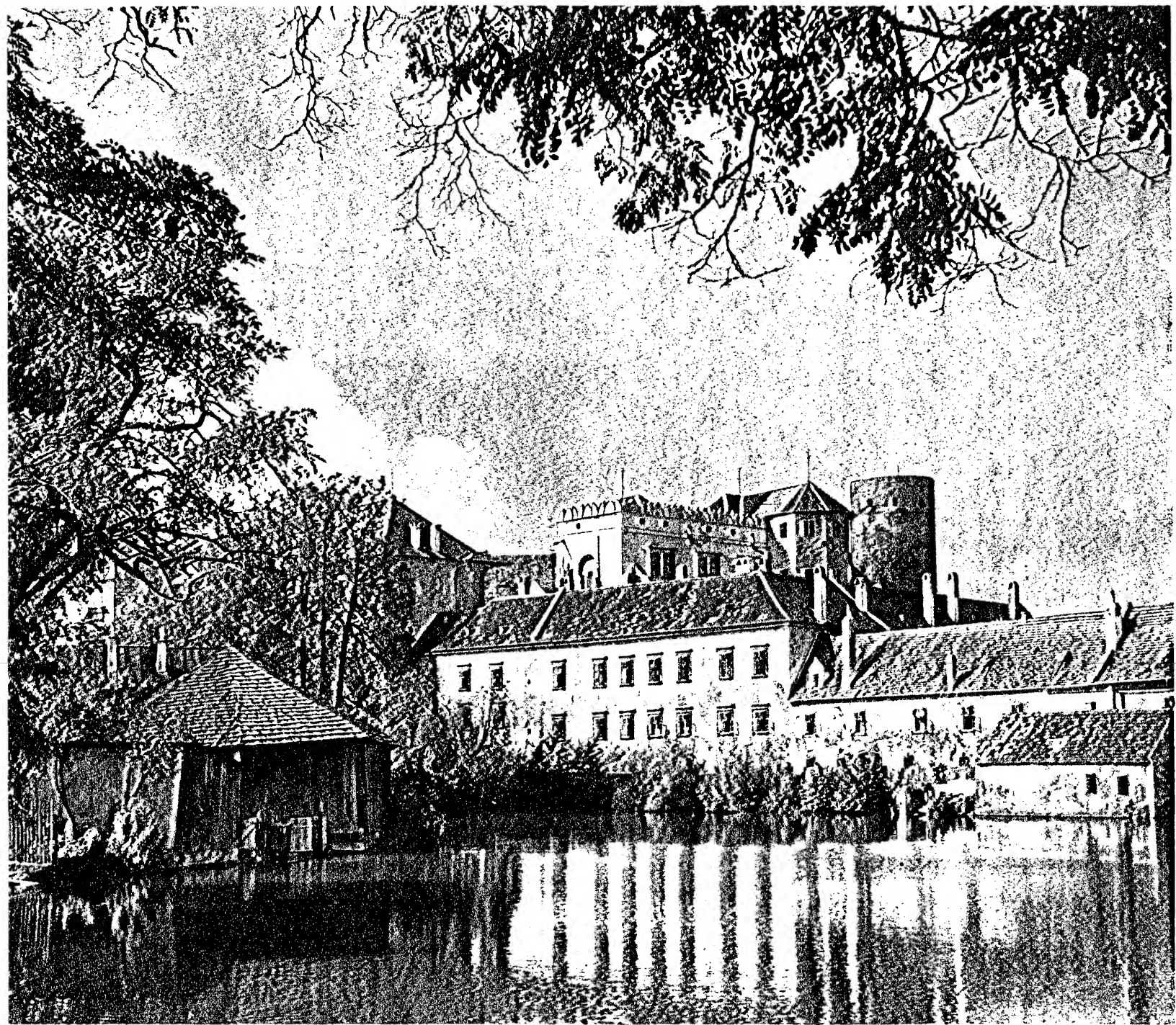
...but is rooted in stone



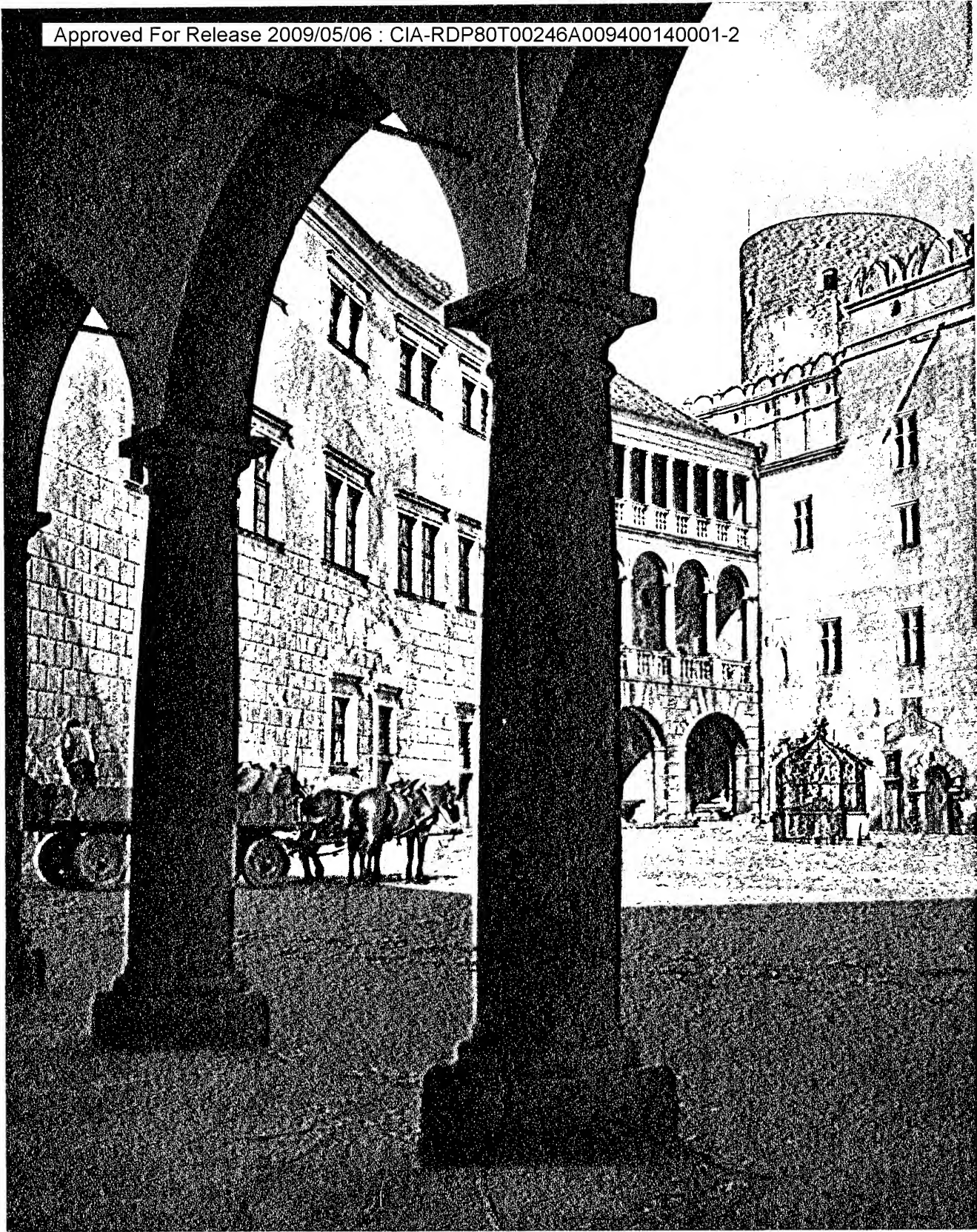




...but the present invades it





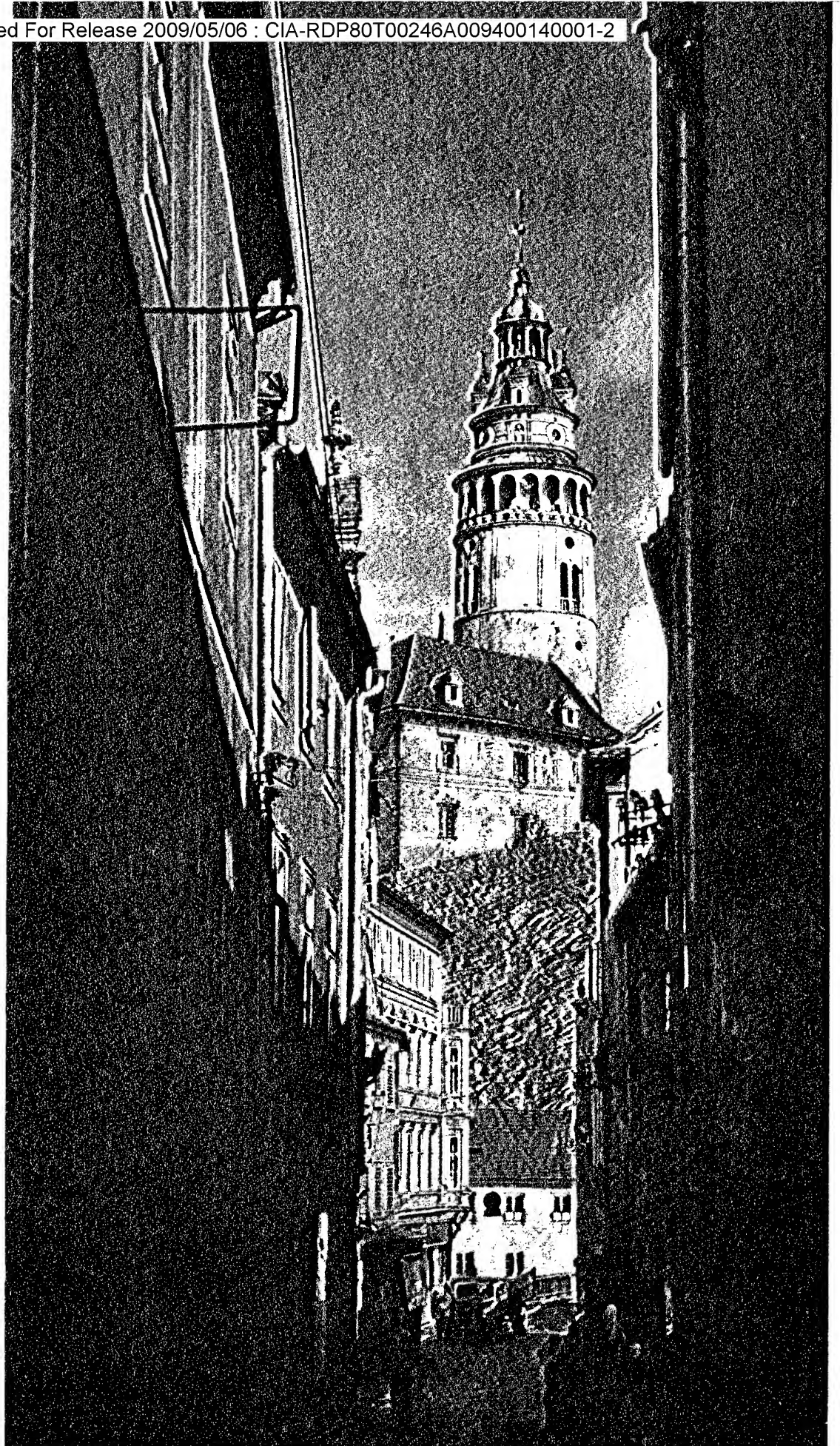


...the town dreams of the past



The glory of old guns  
grows rusty





...but the beauty of old  
spires lasts



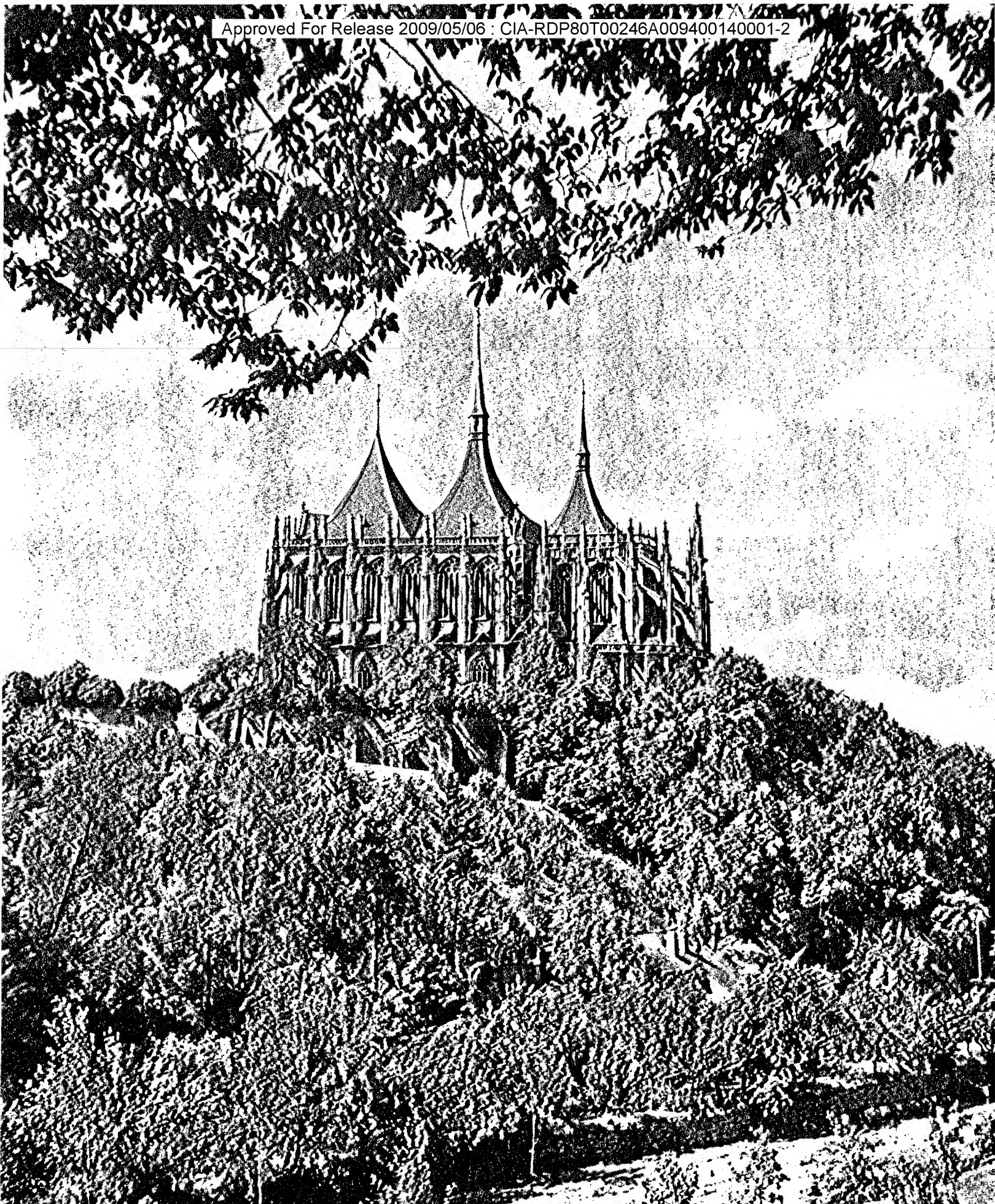




The housing of bygone times is not a subject for envy







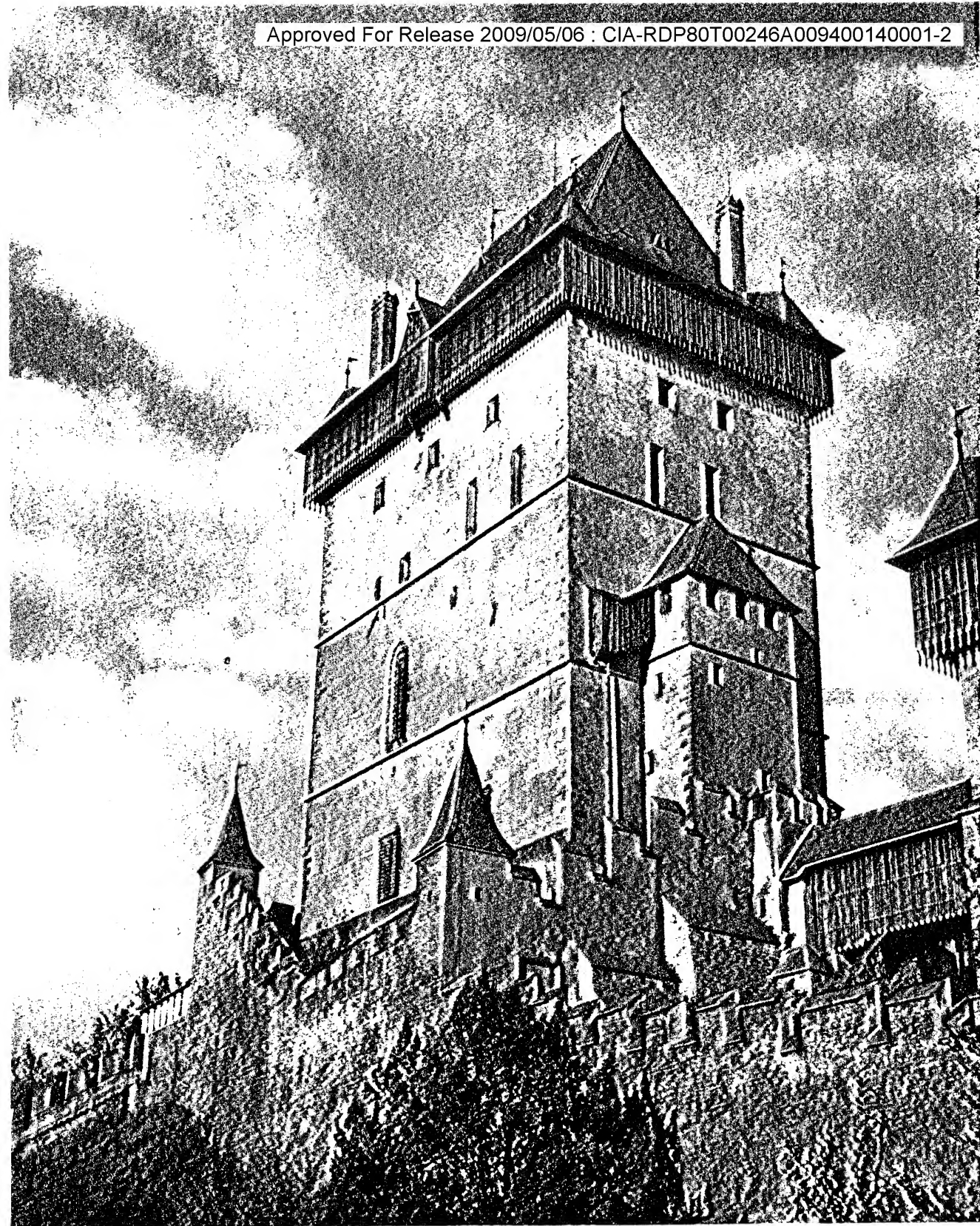




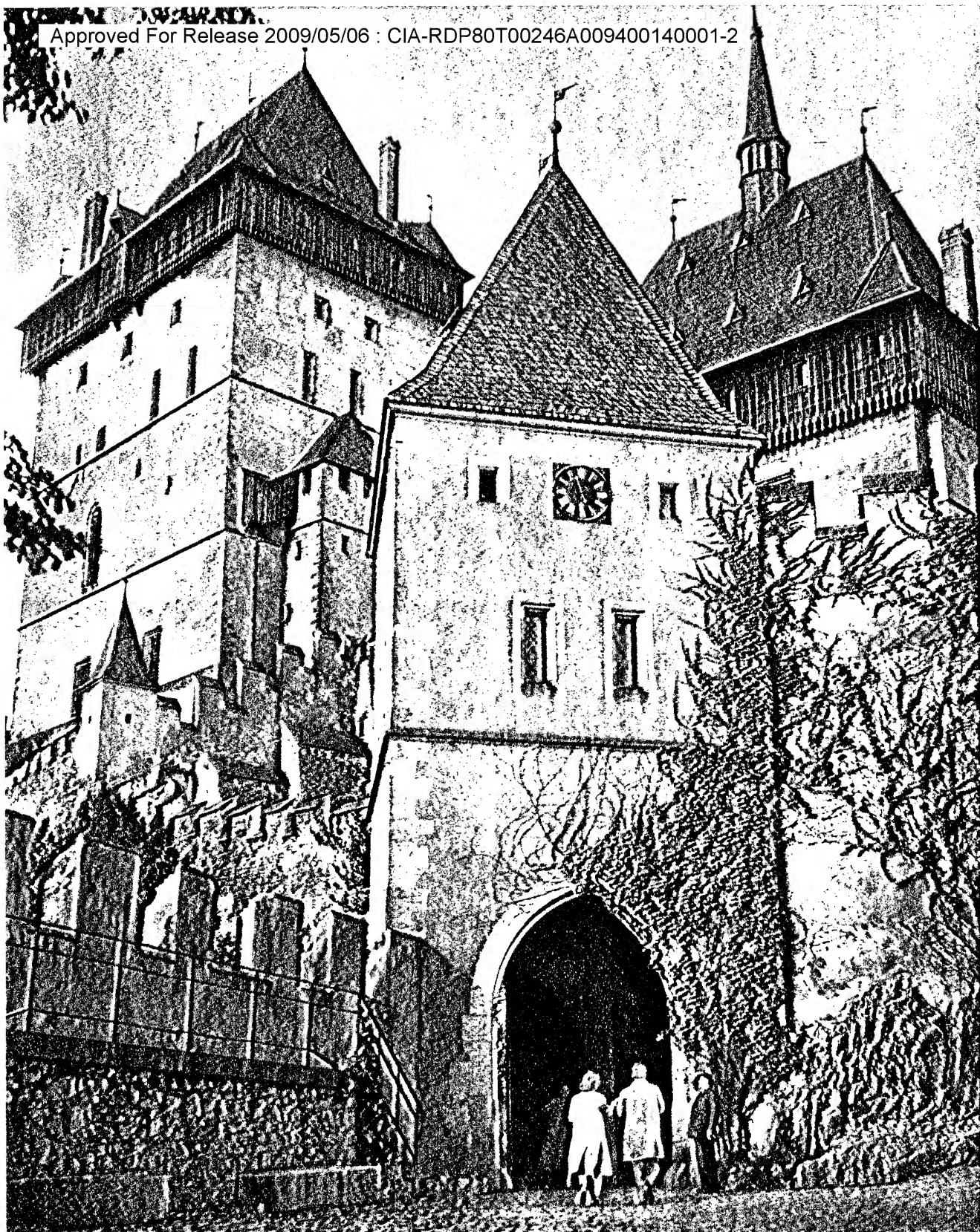




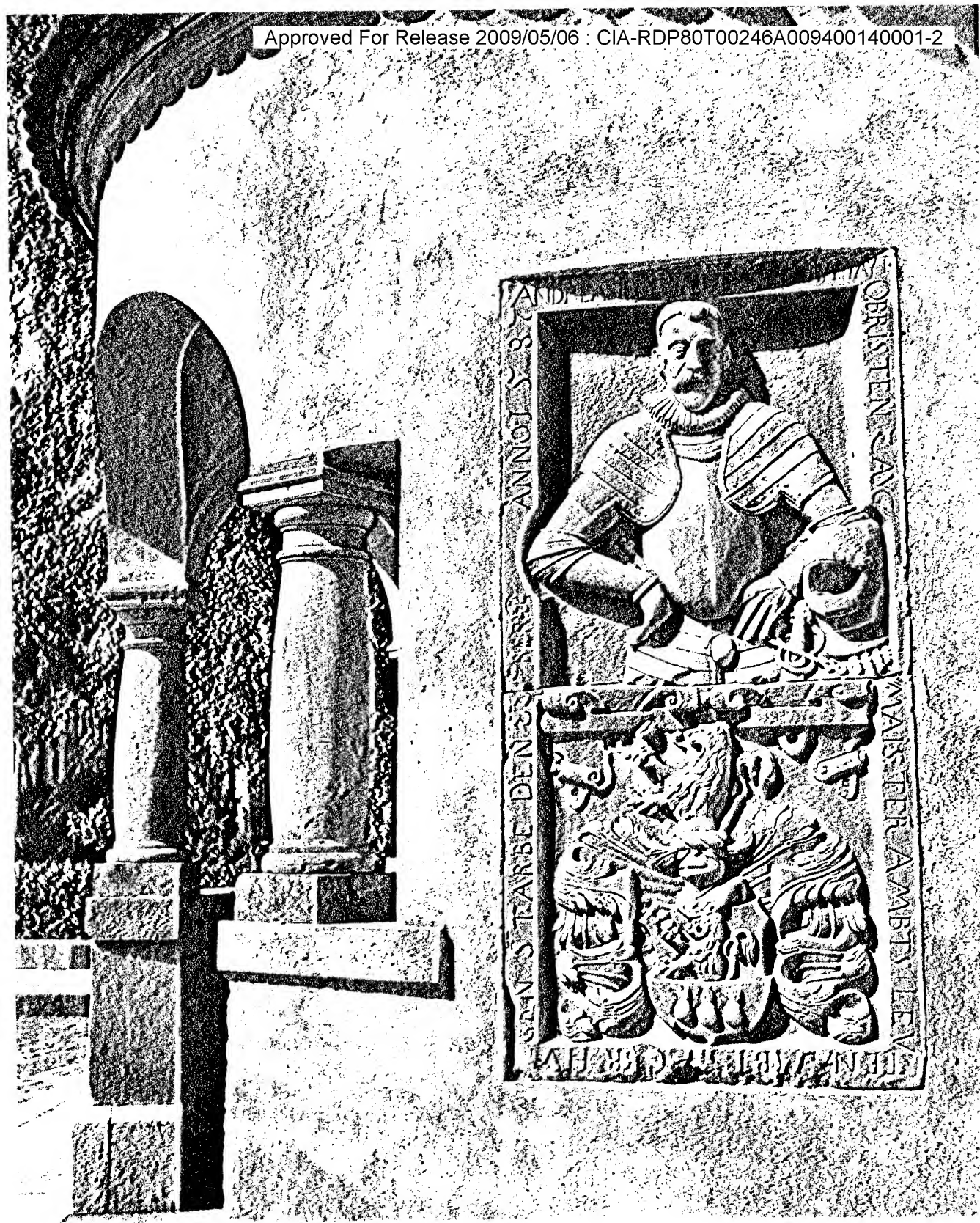
...even in fountains





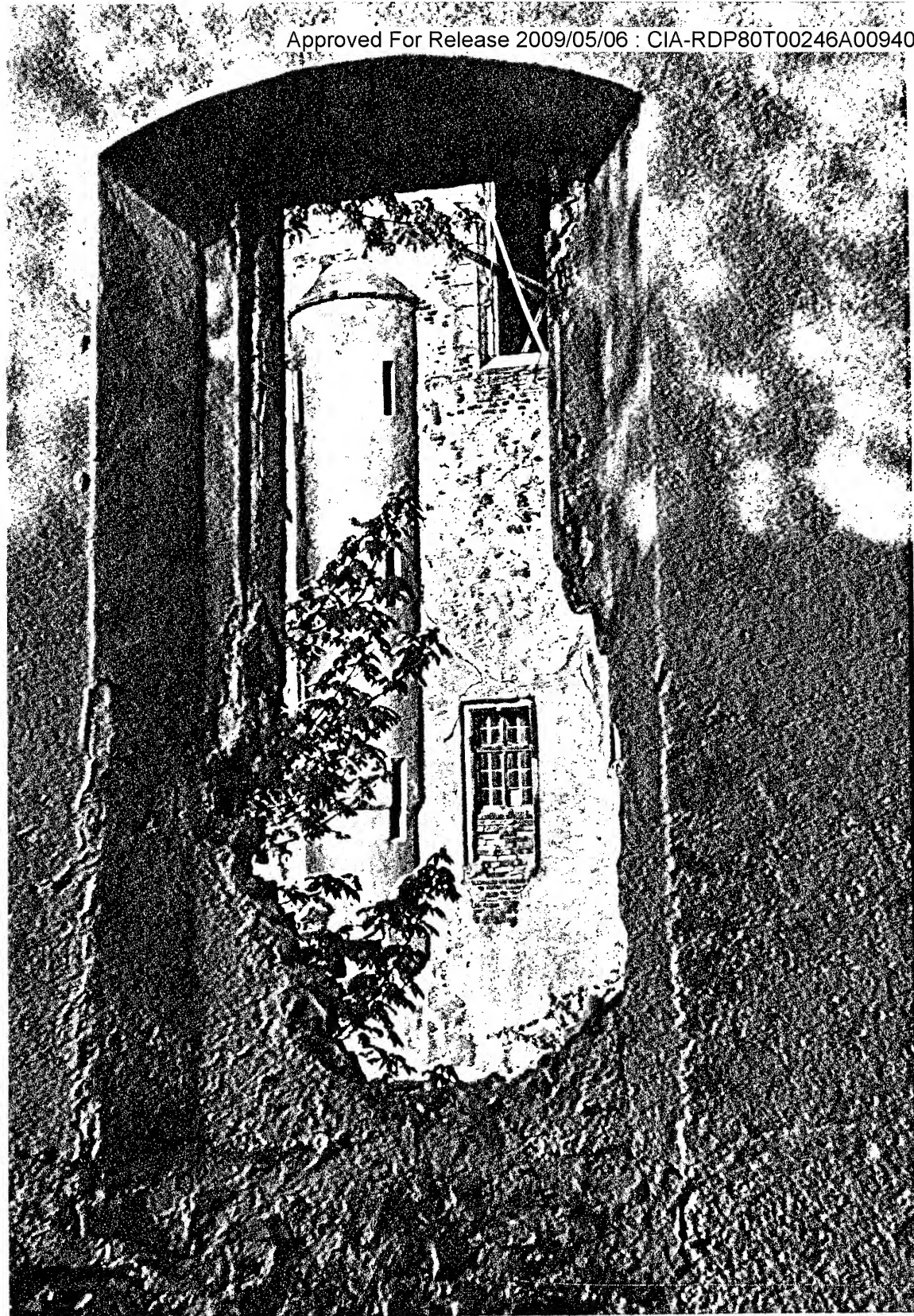


...and lovers without number through its gates

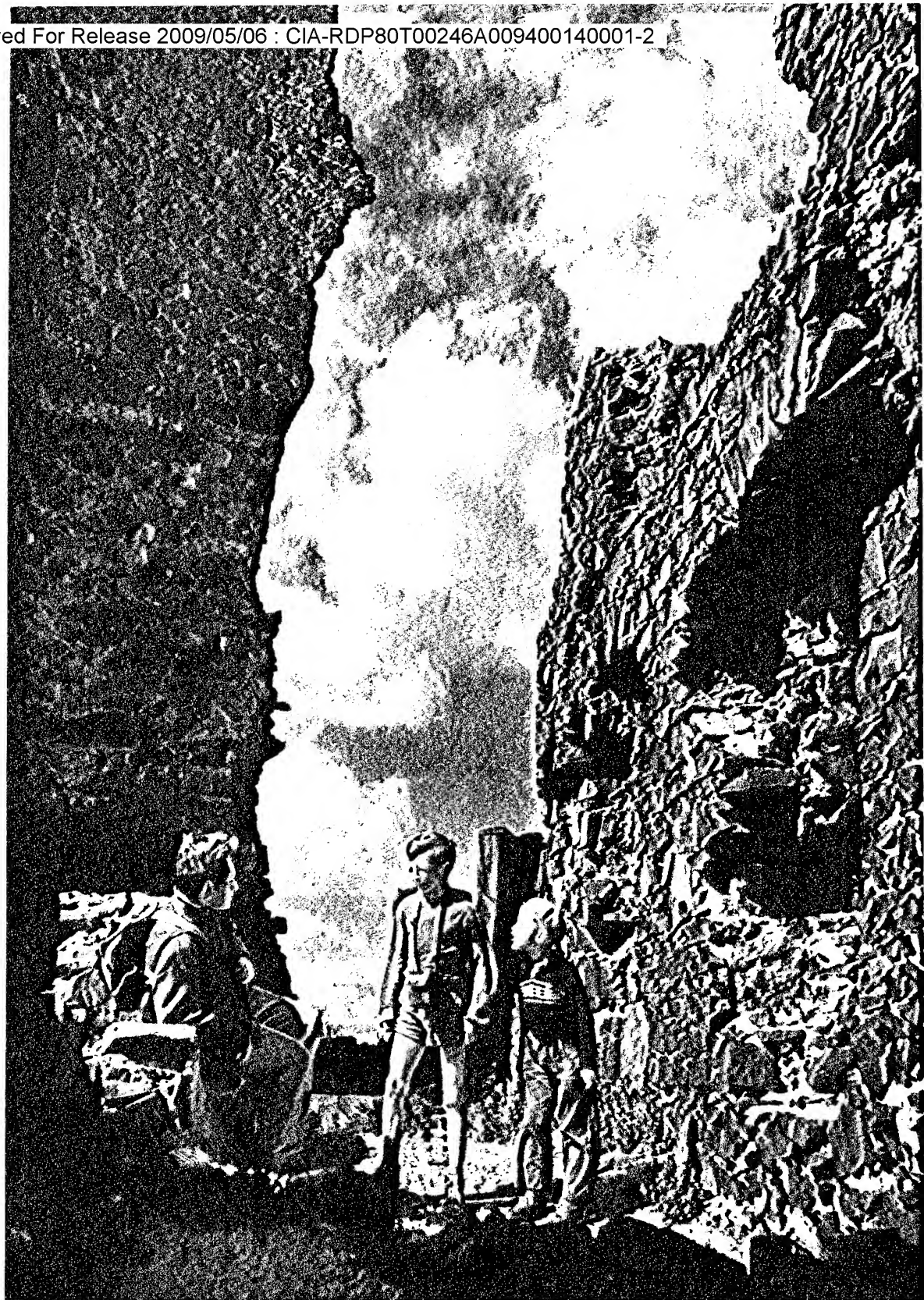




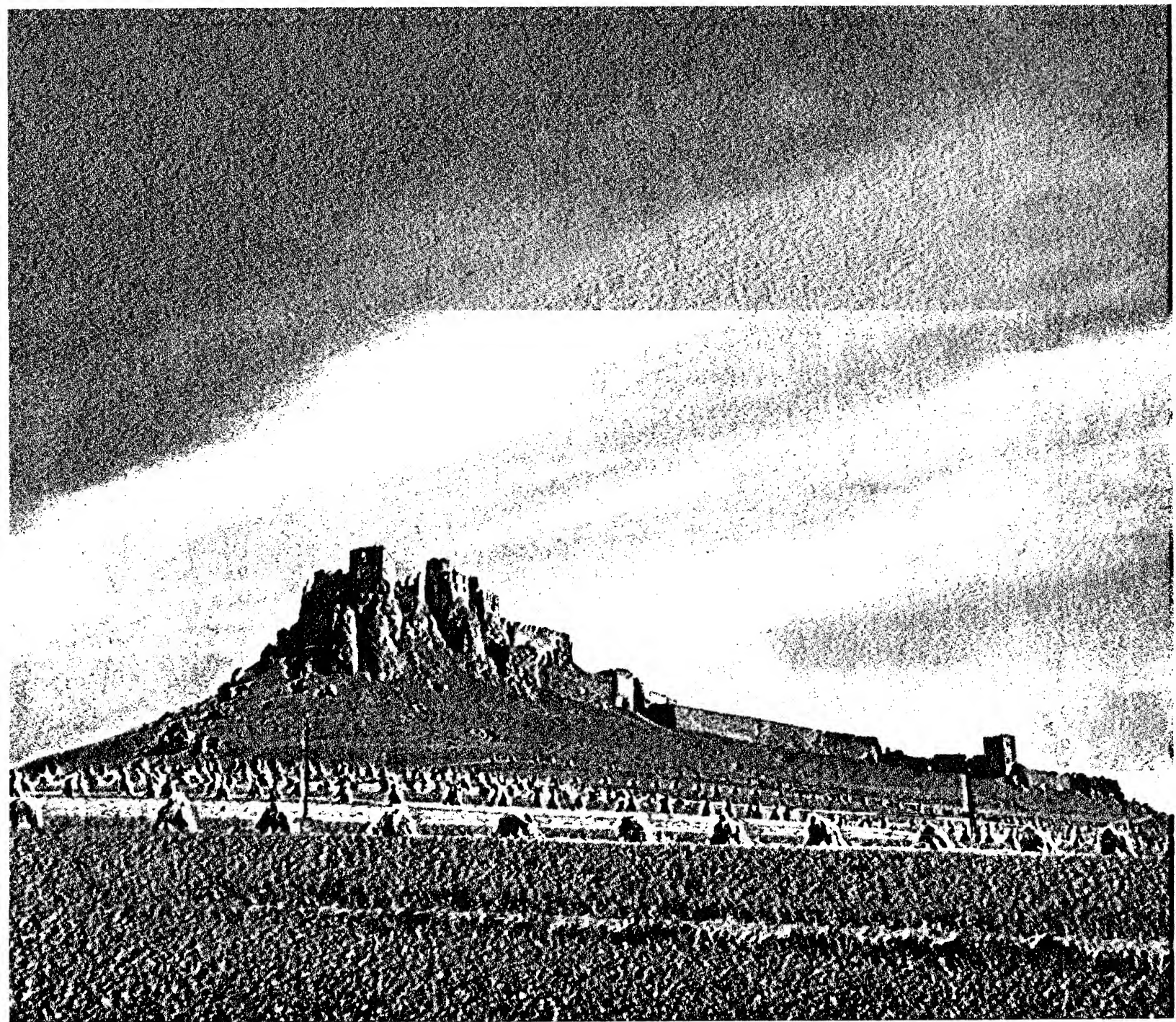




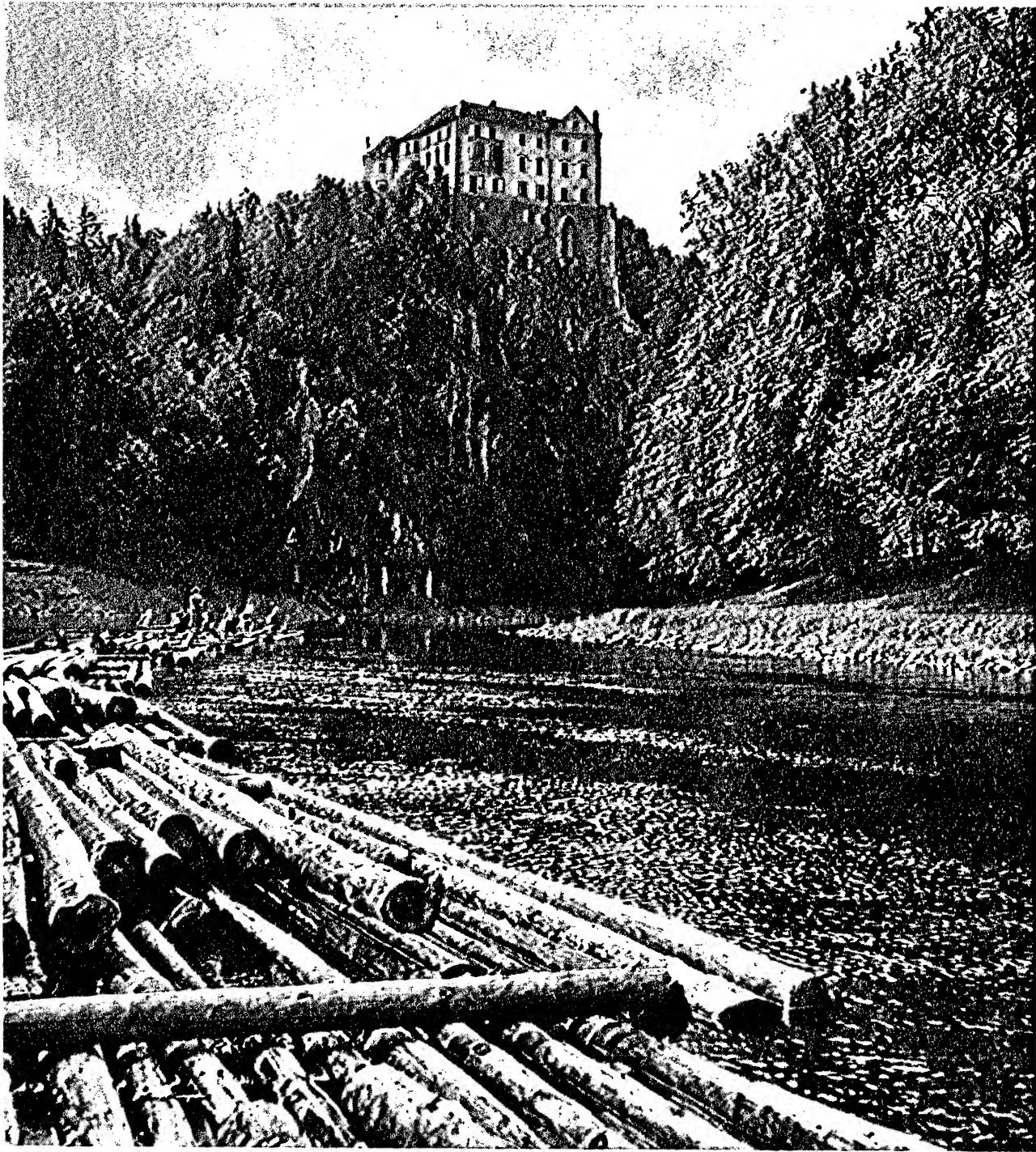




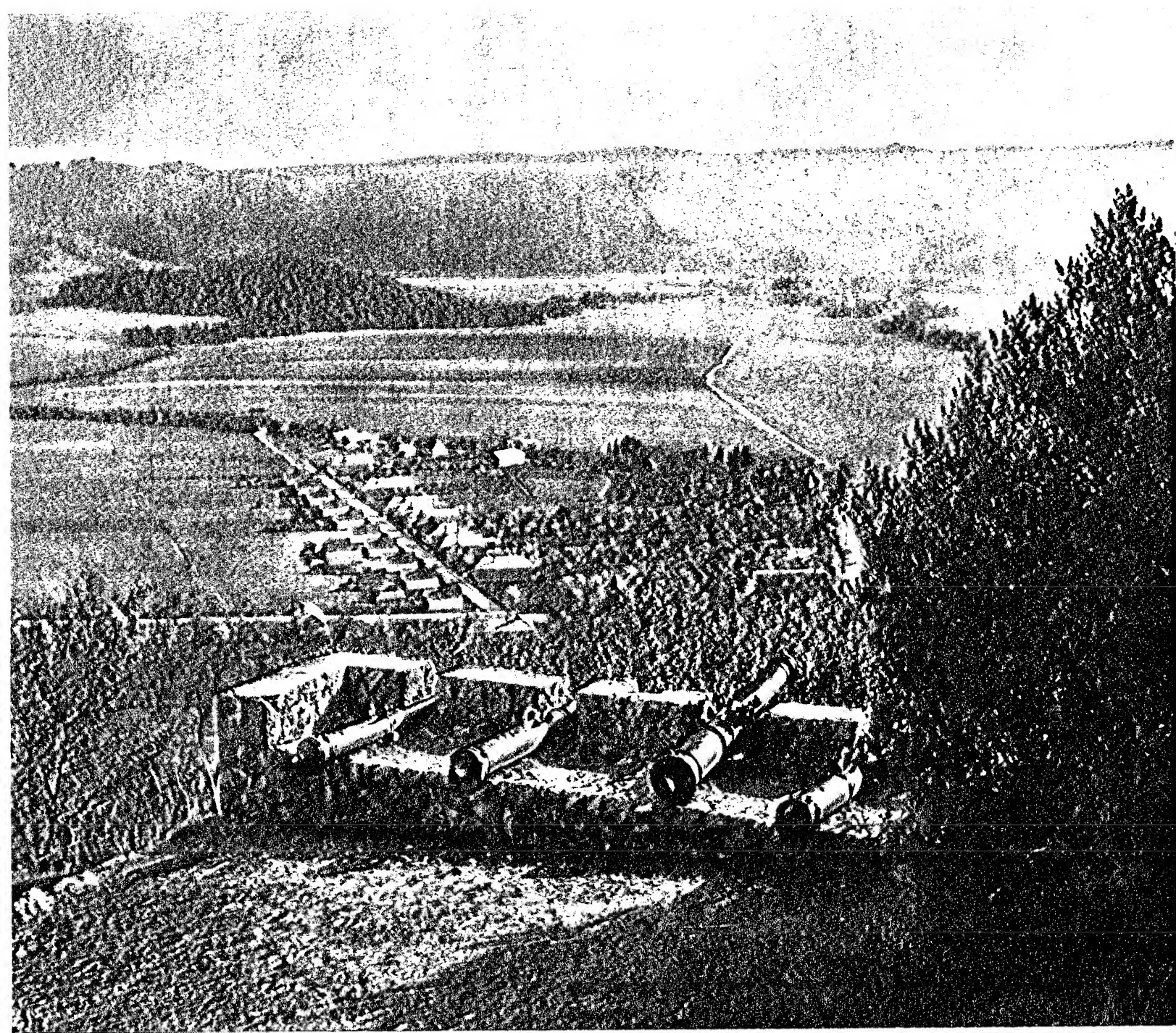
Flesh and blood vies with the stones



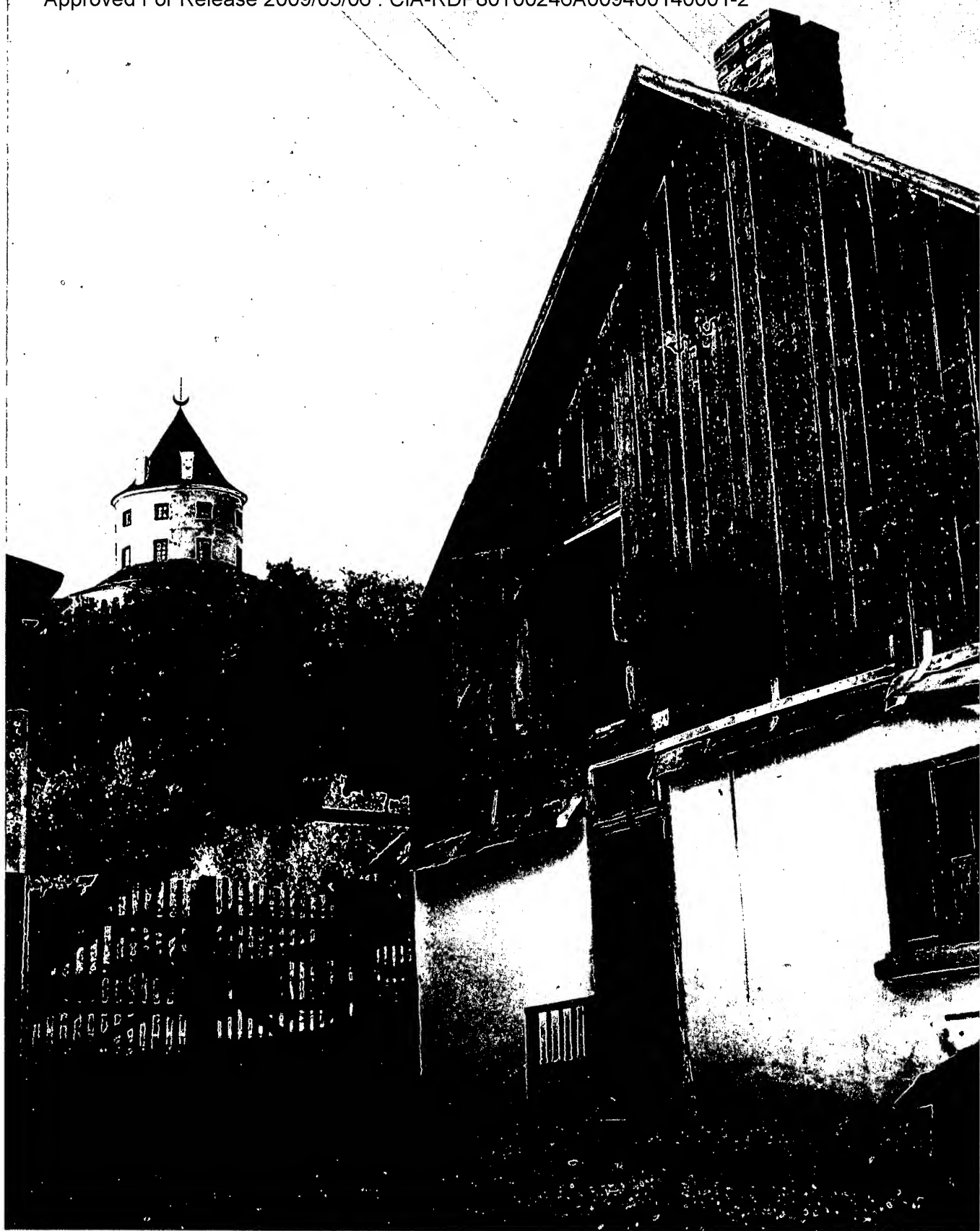




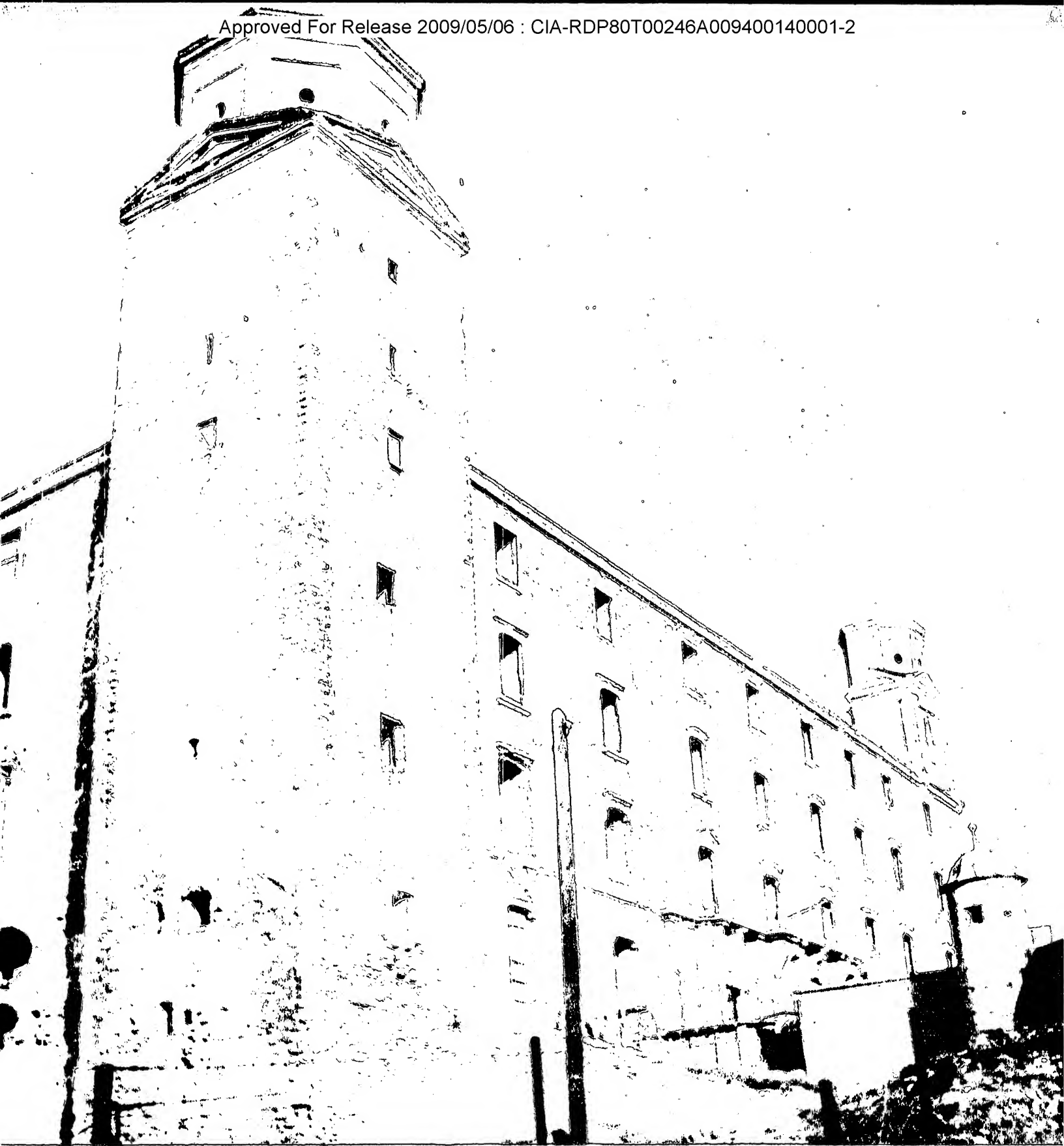
...elsewhere it keeps sternly aloof





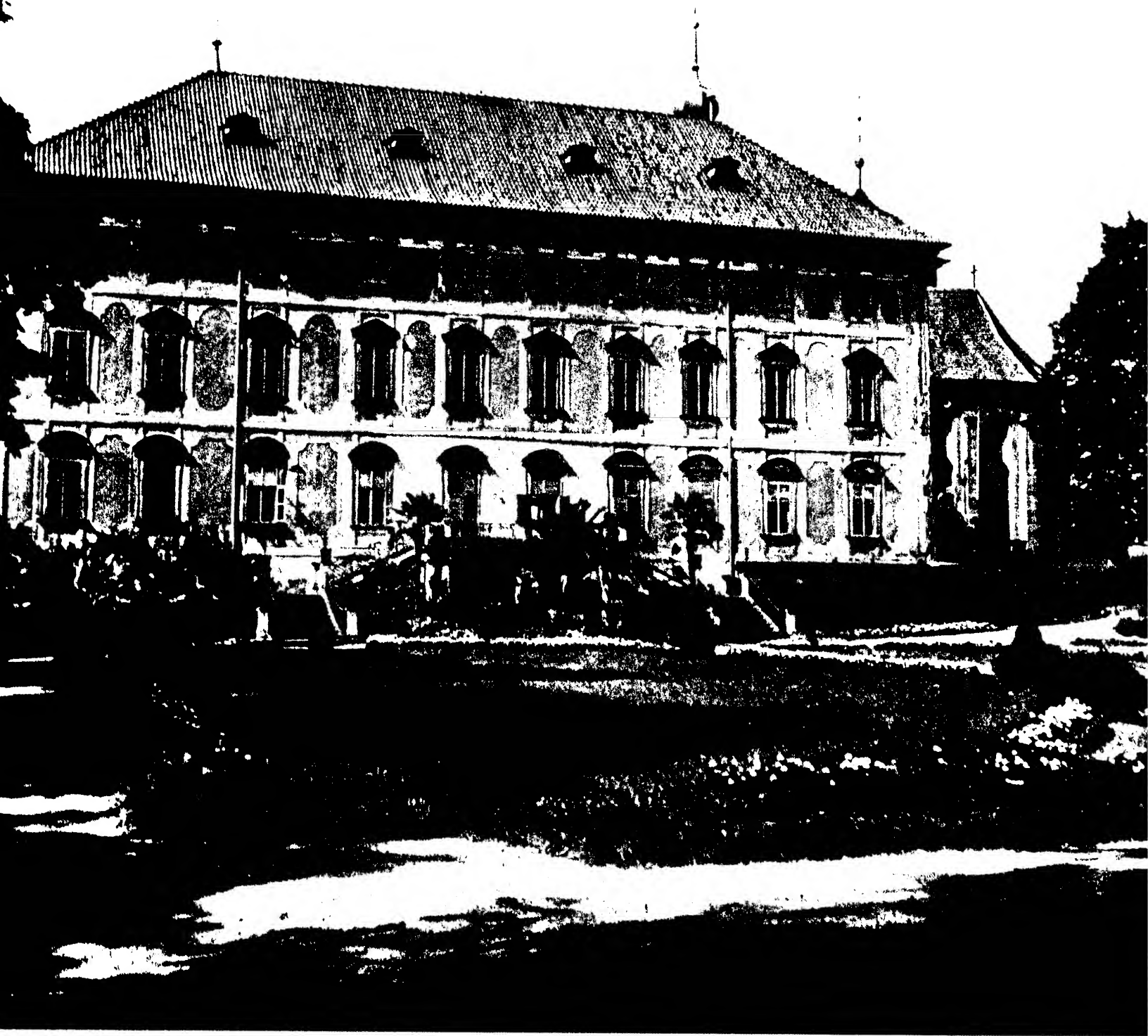


The people—and the nobility

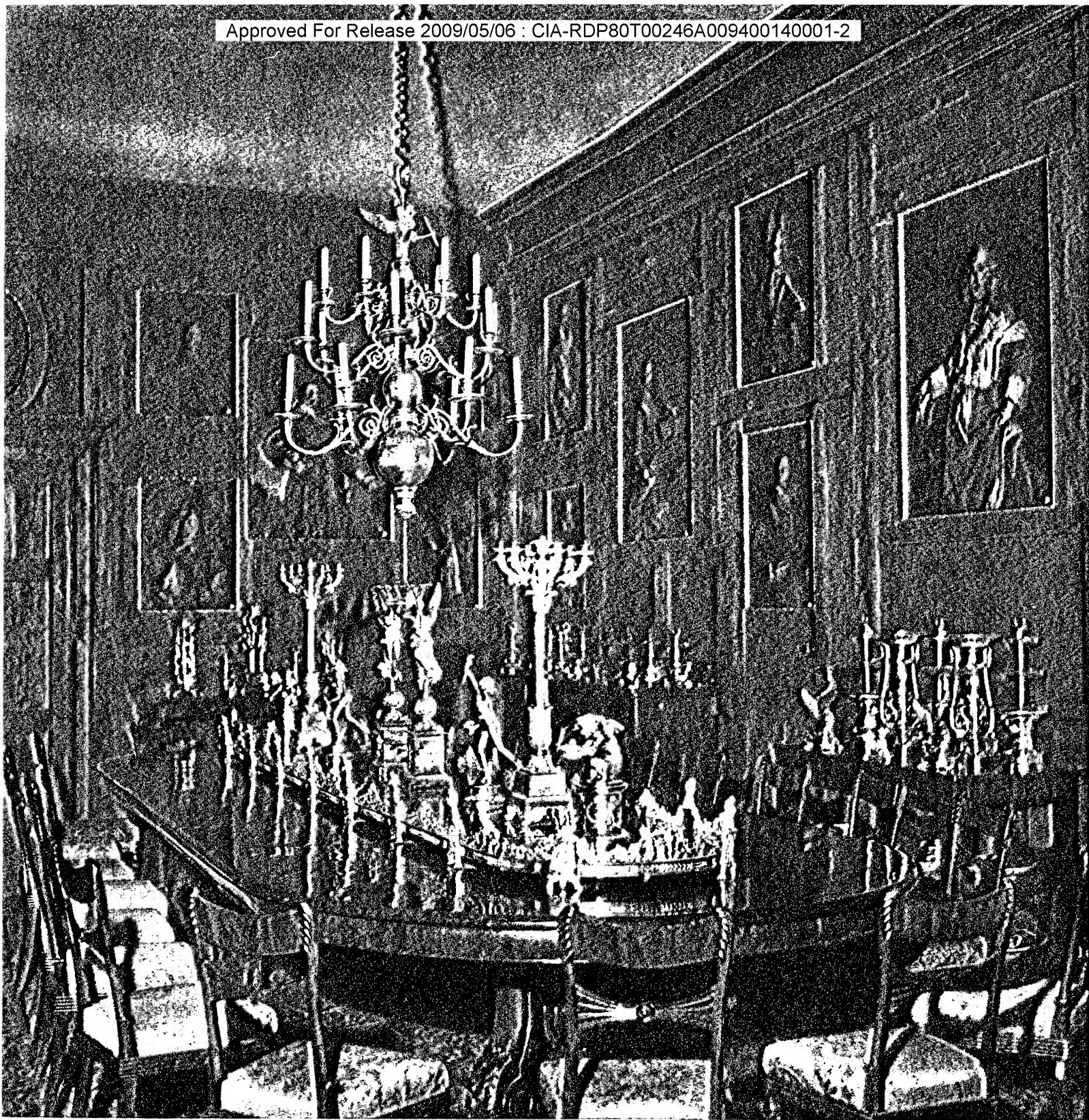




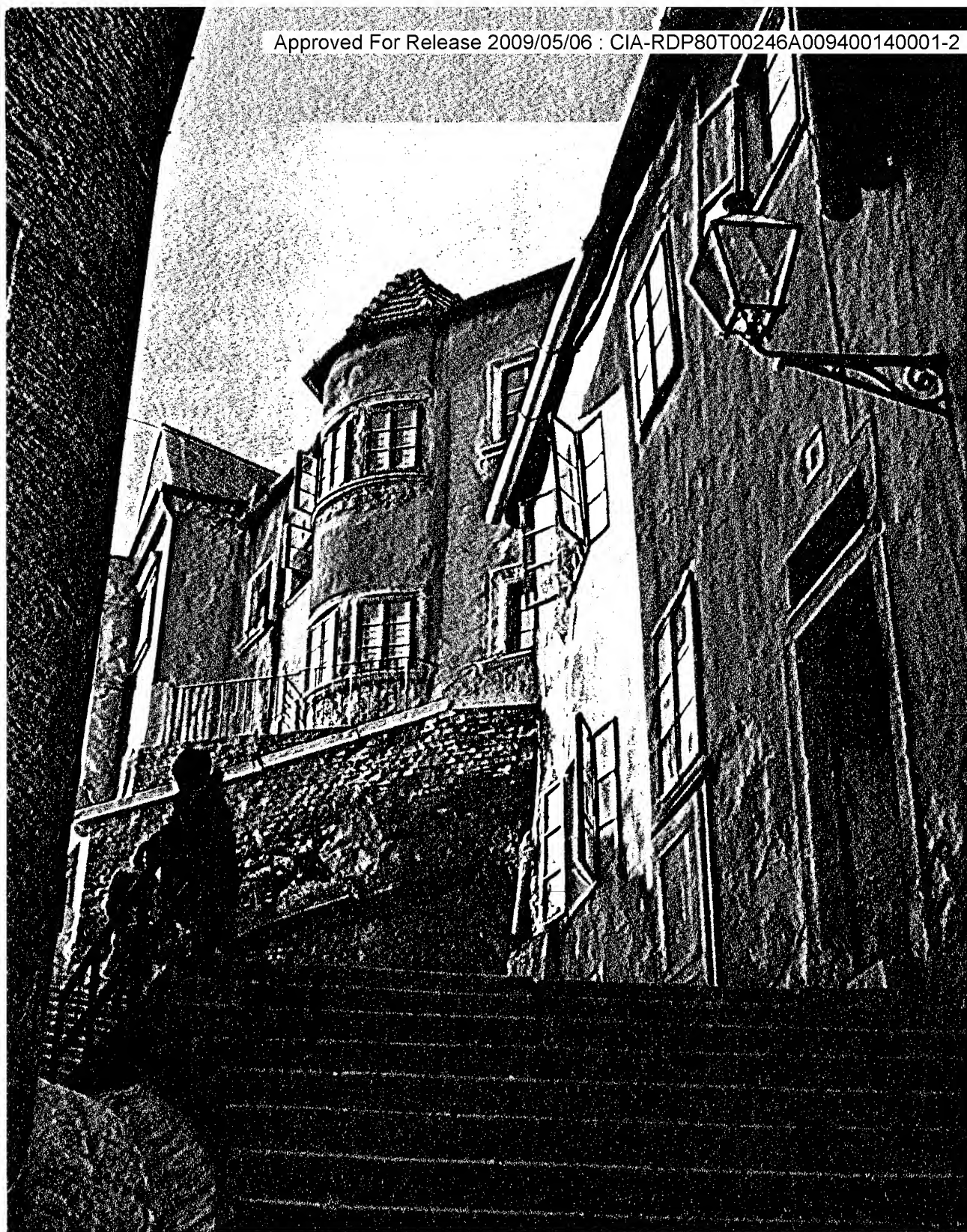




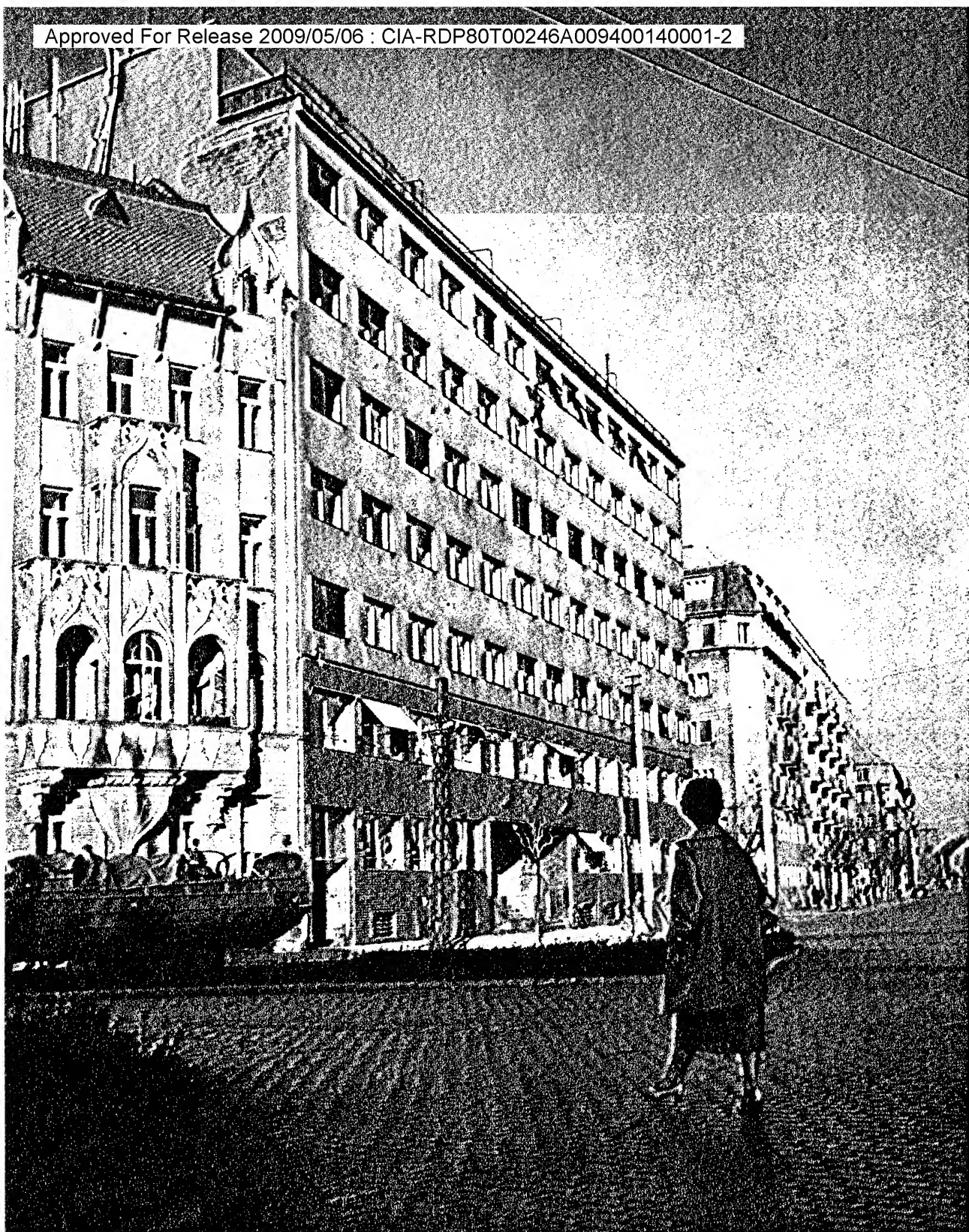




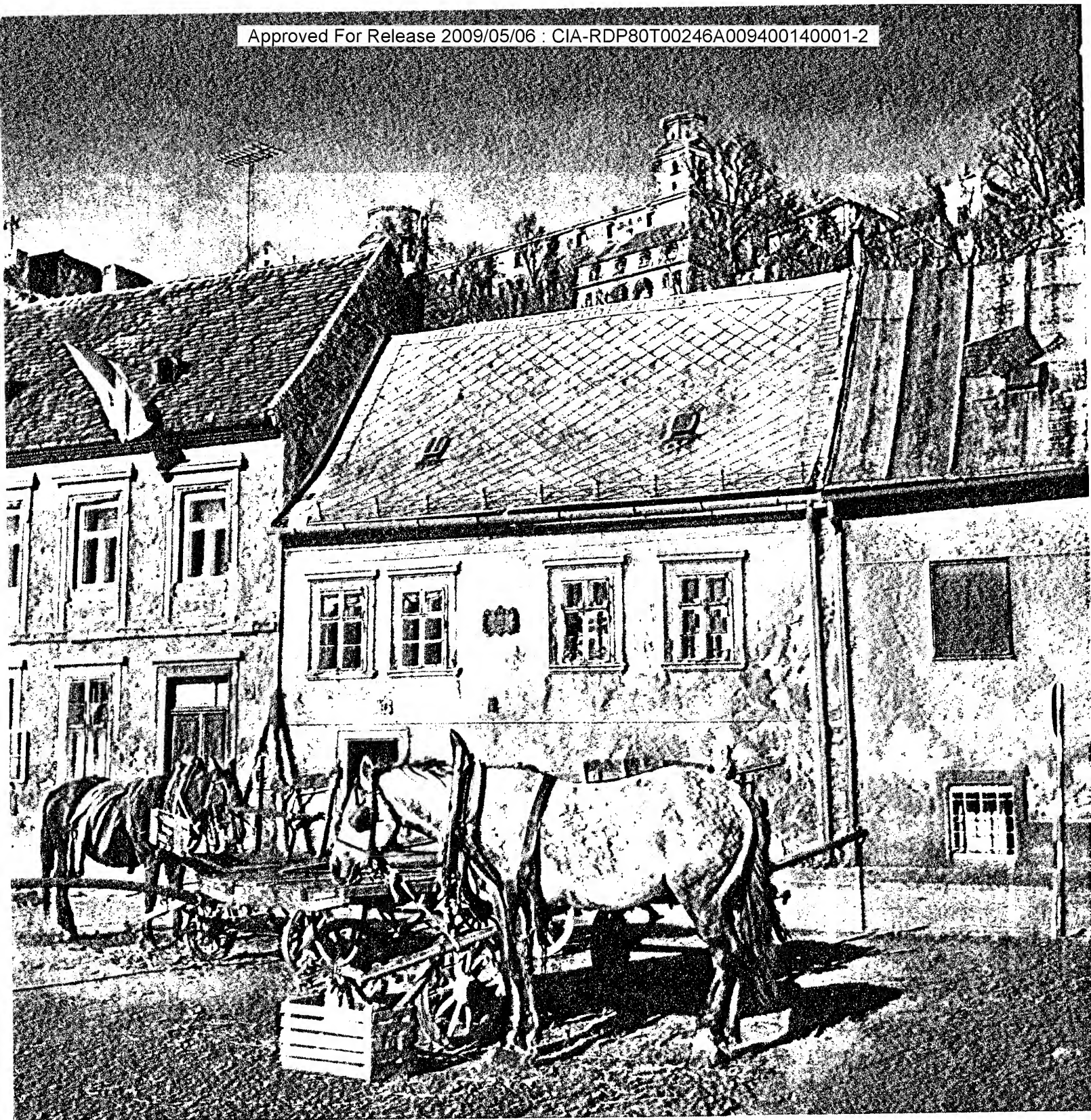
...now a school for taste







Faith in the future



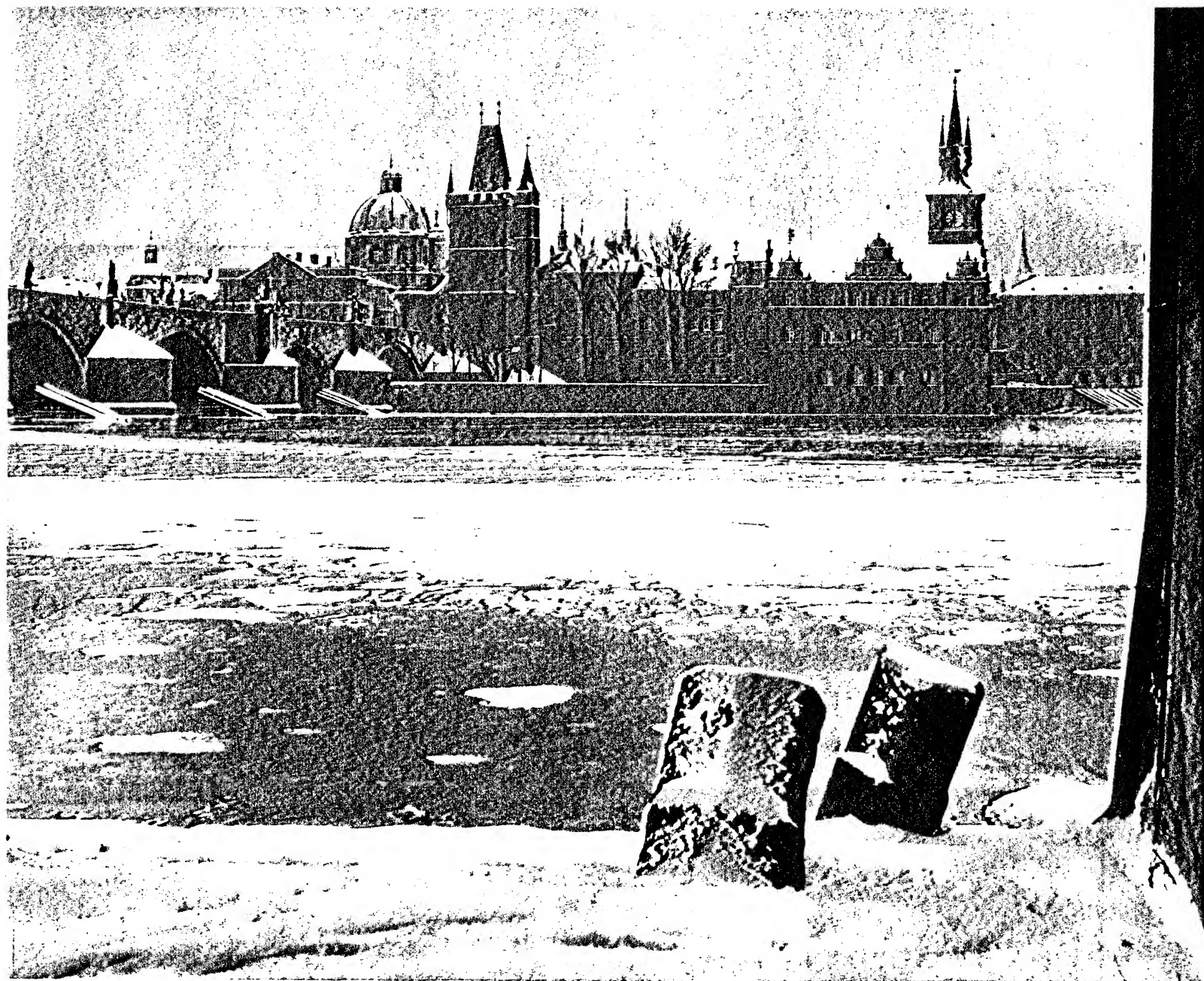




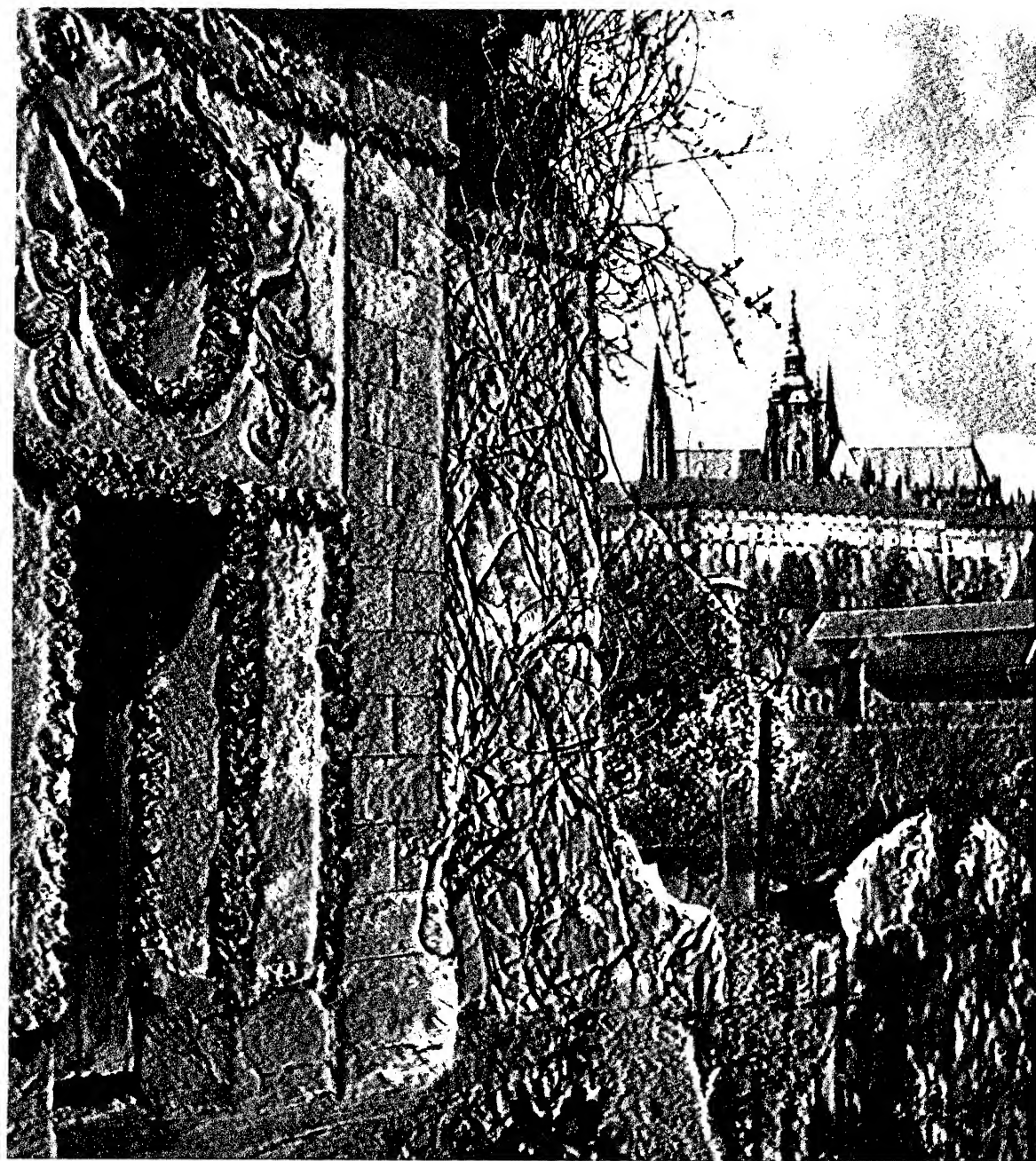
The Song of Prague—the beauty of everyday







Snowclad Prague—cruel winter



An unguarded moment

82

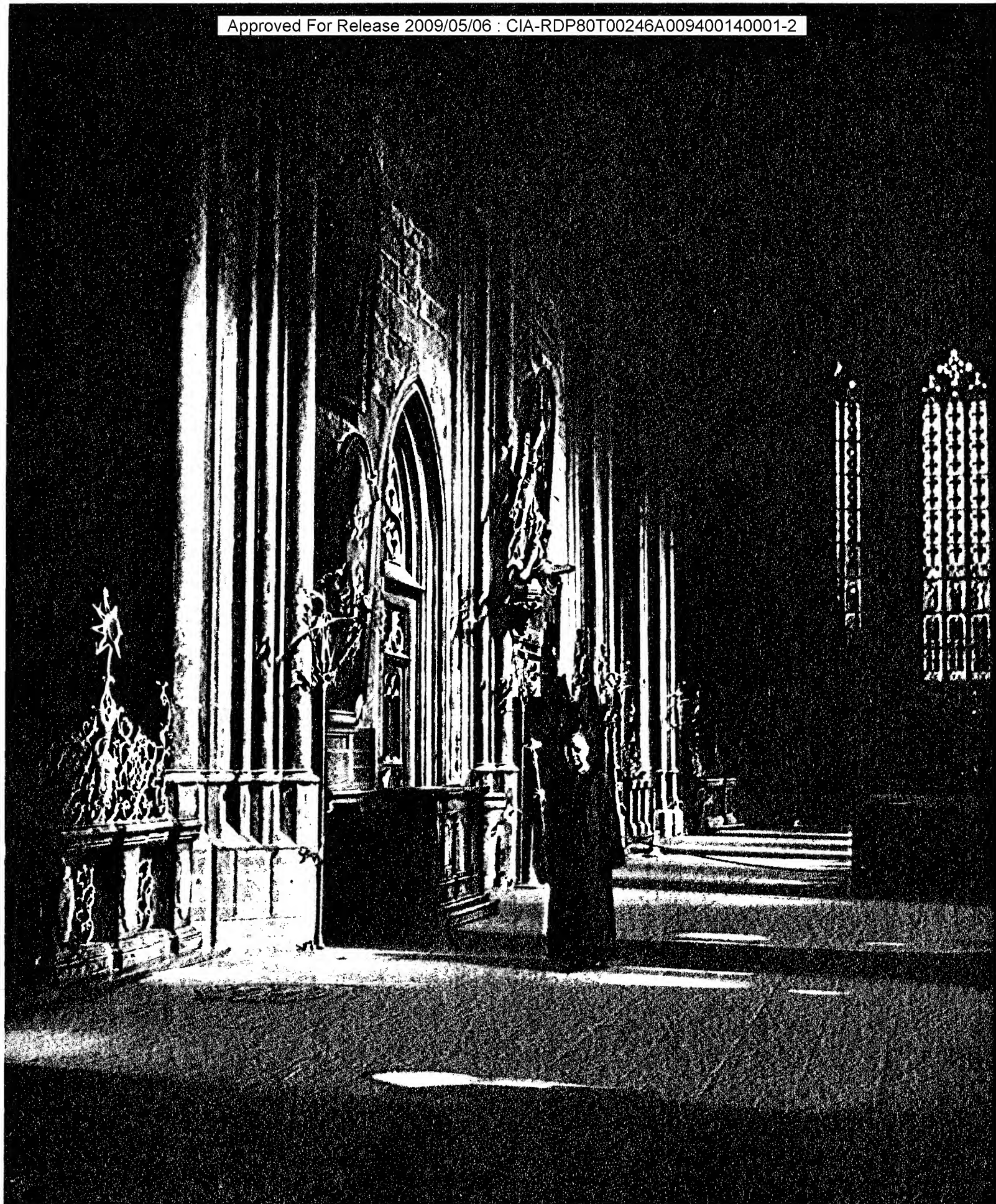


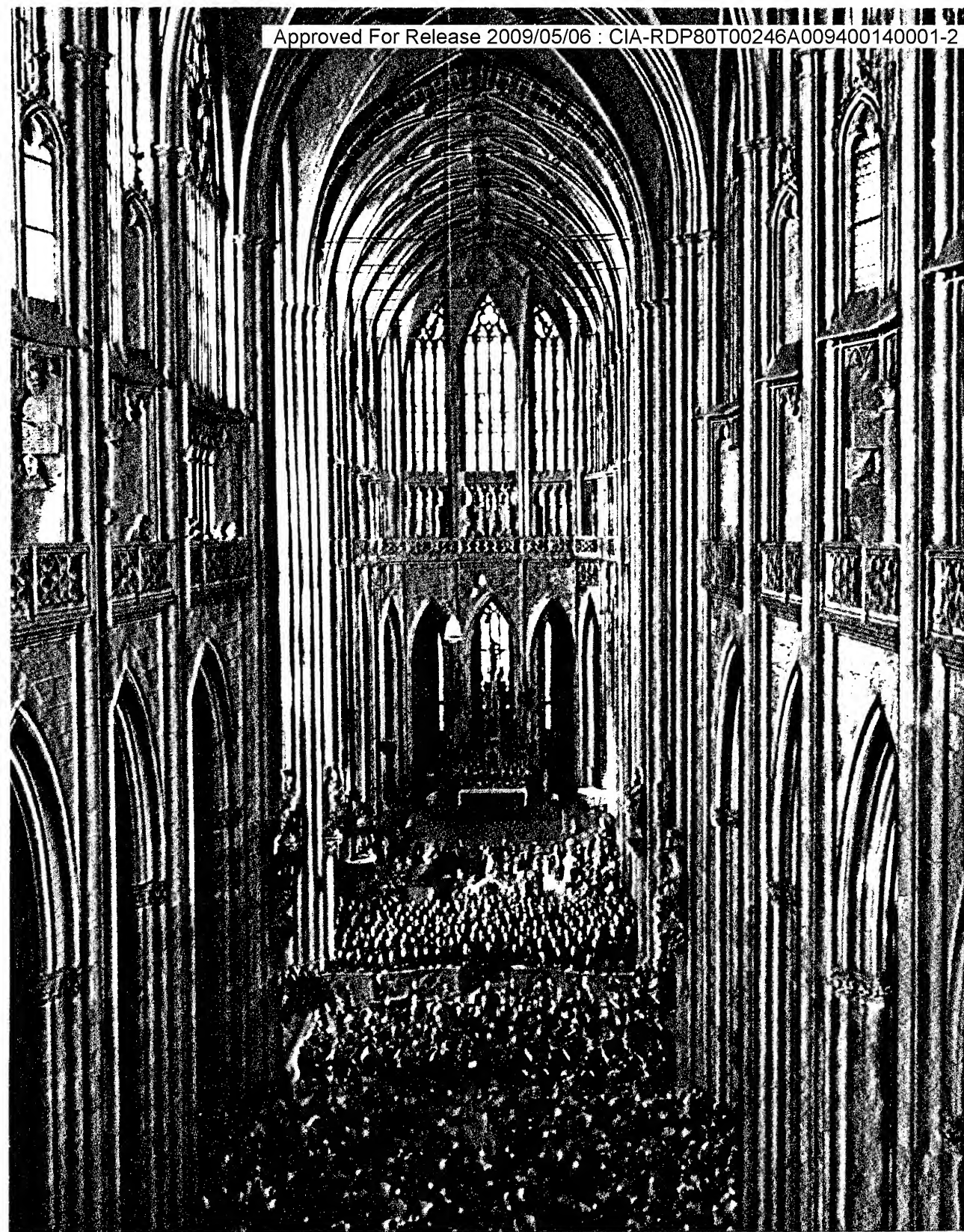


It might be a  
child's plaything

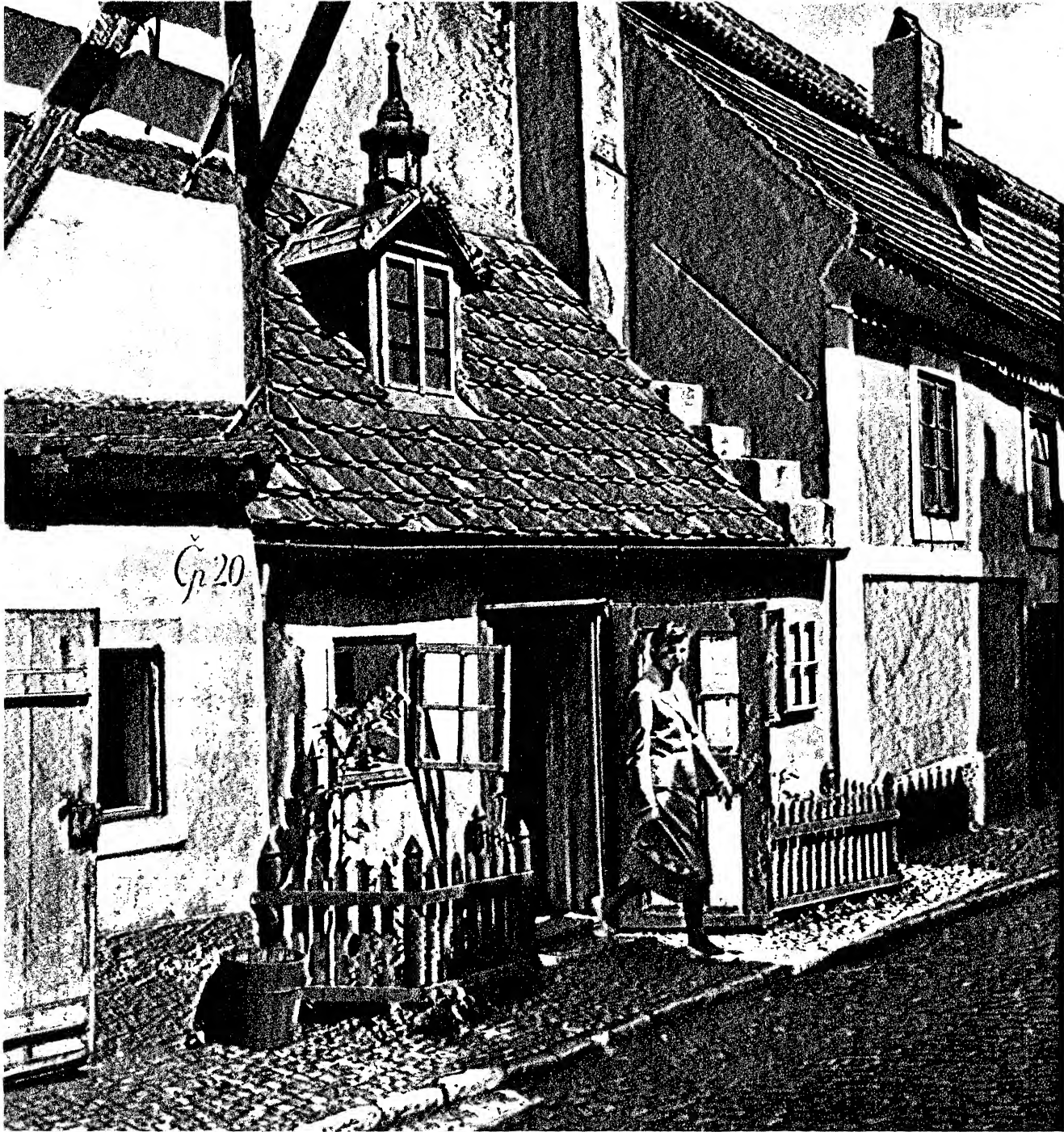




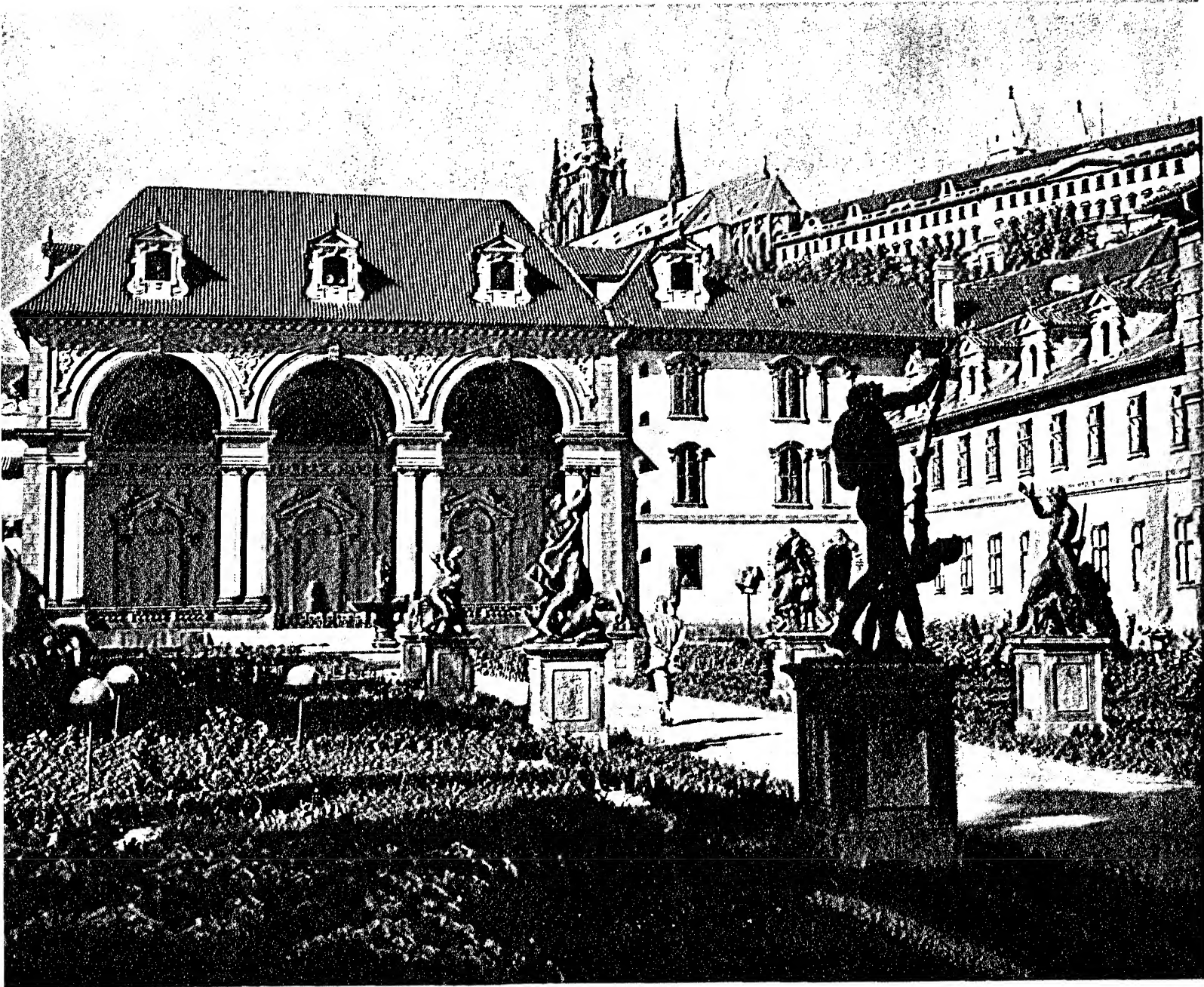








A street from the Middle Ages with a modern smile



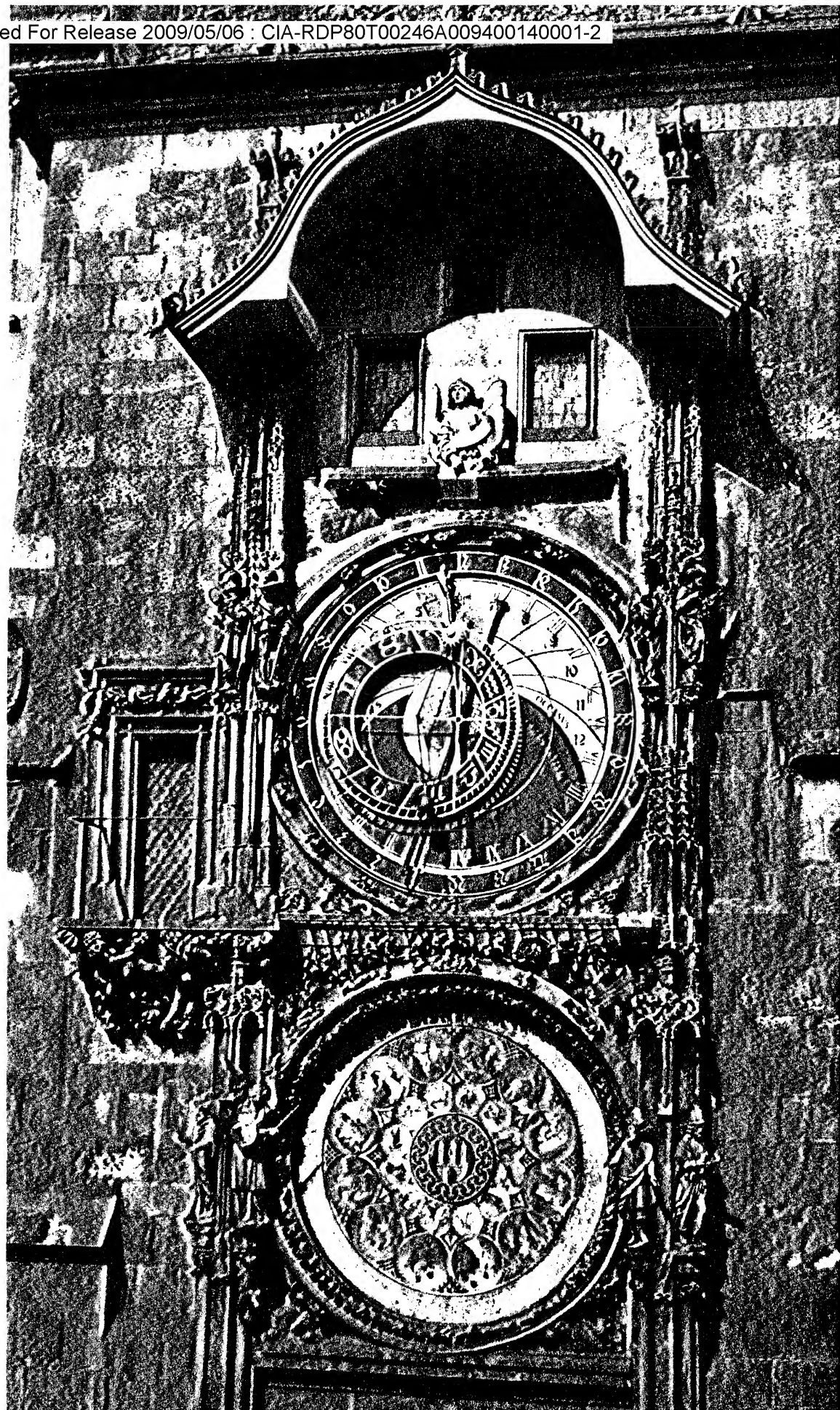




Mute conversation



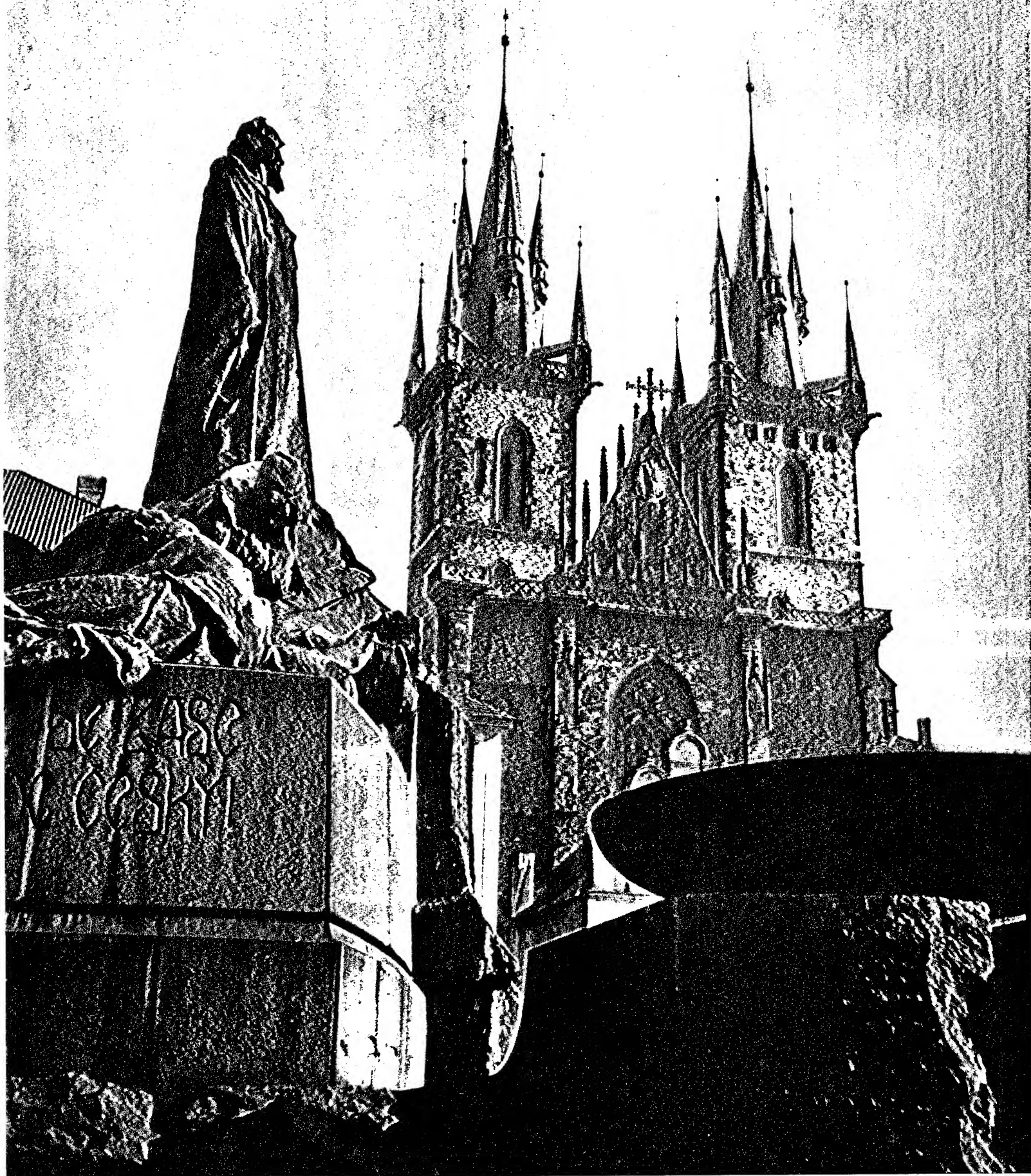


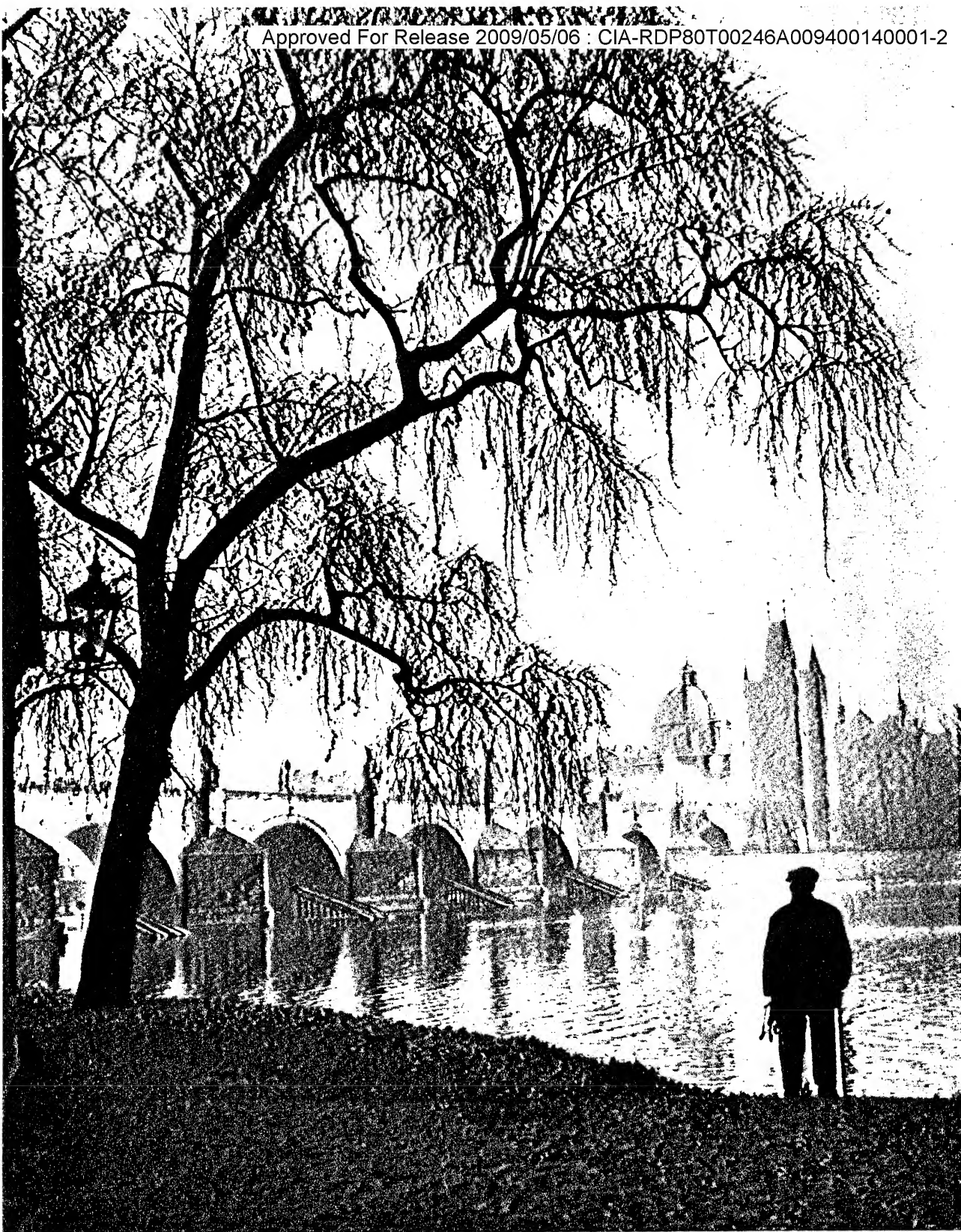


A treatise on eternity  
from the Middle Ages

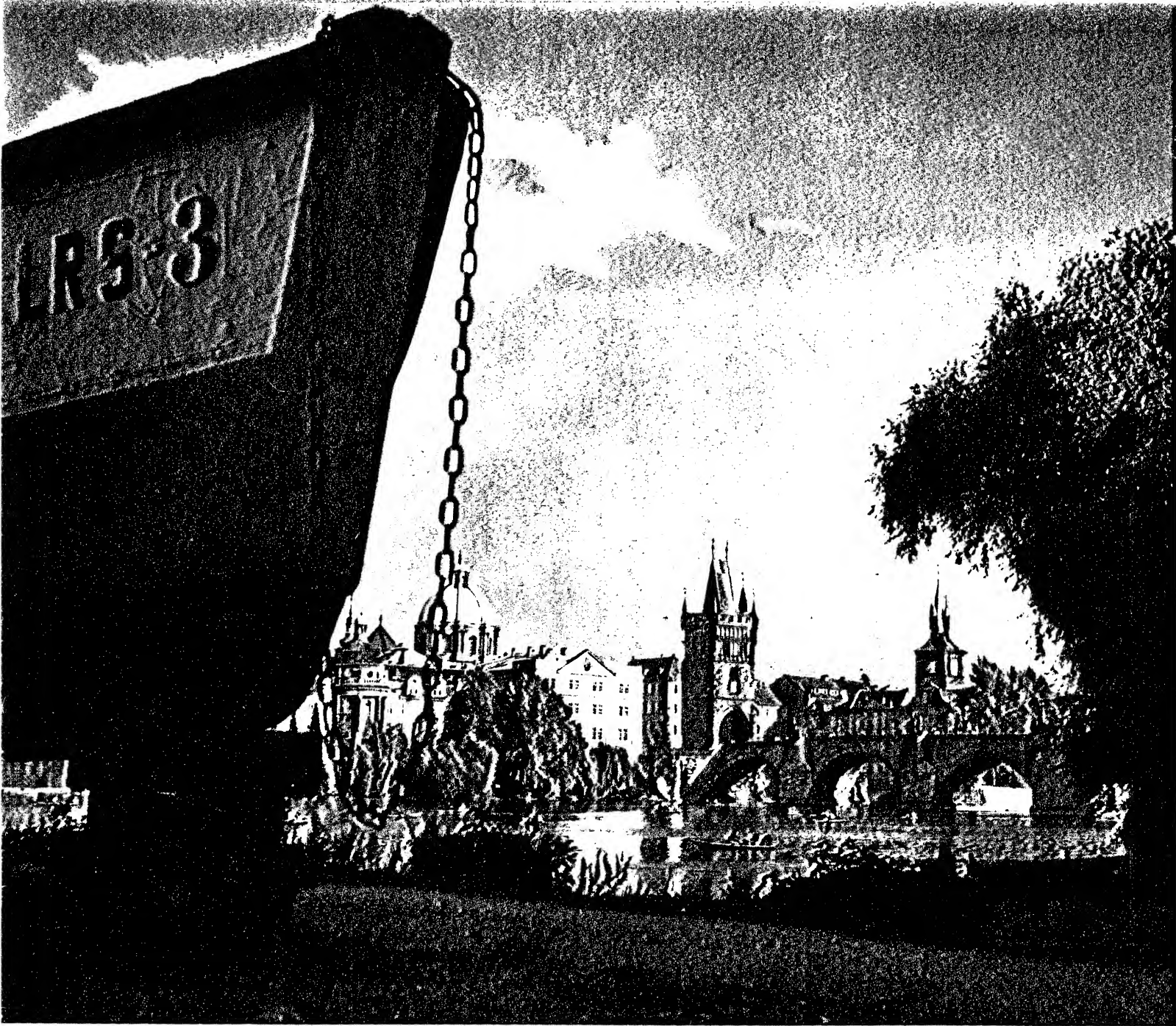




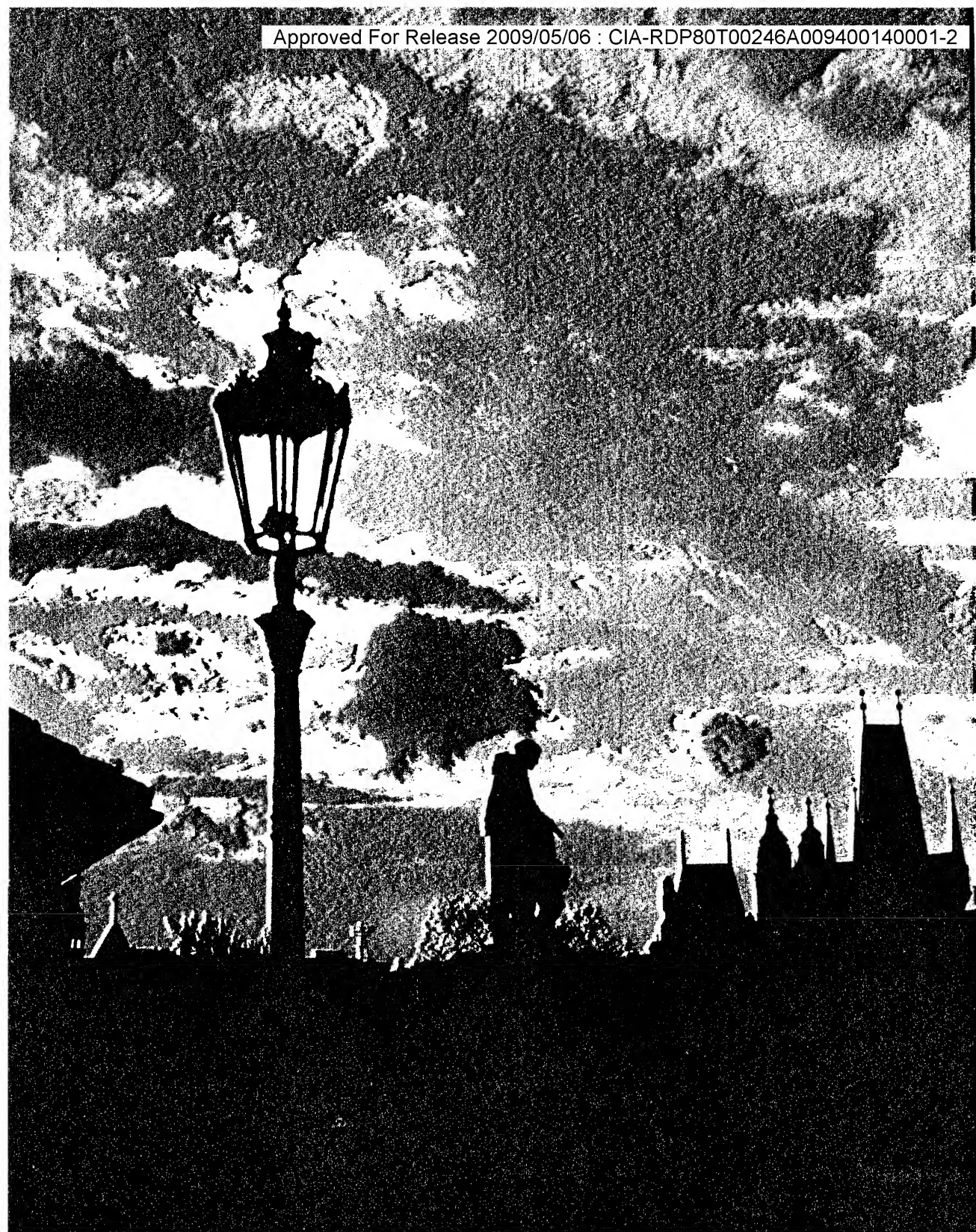




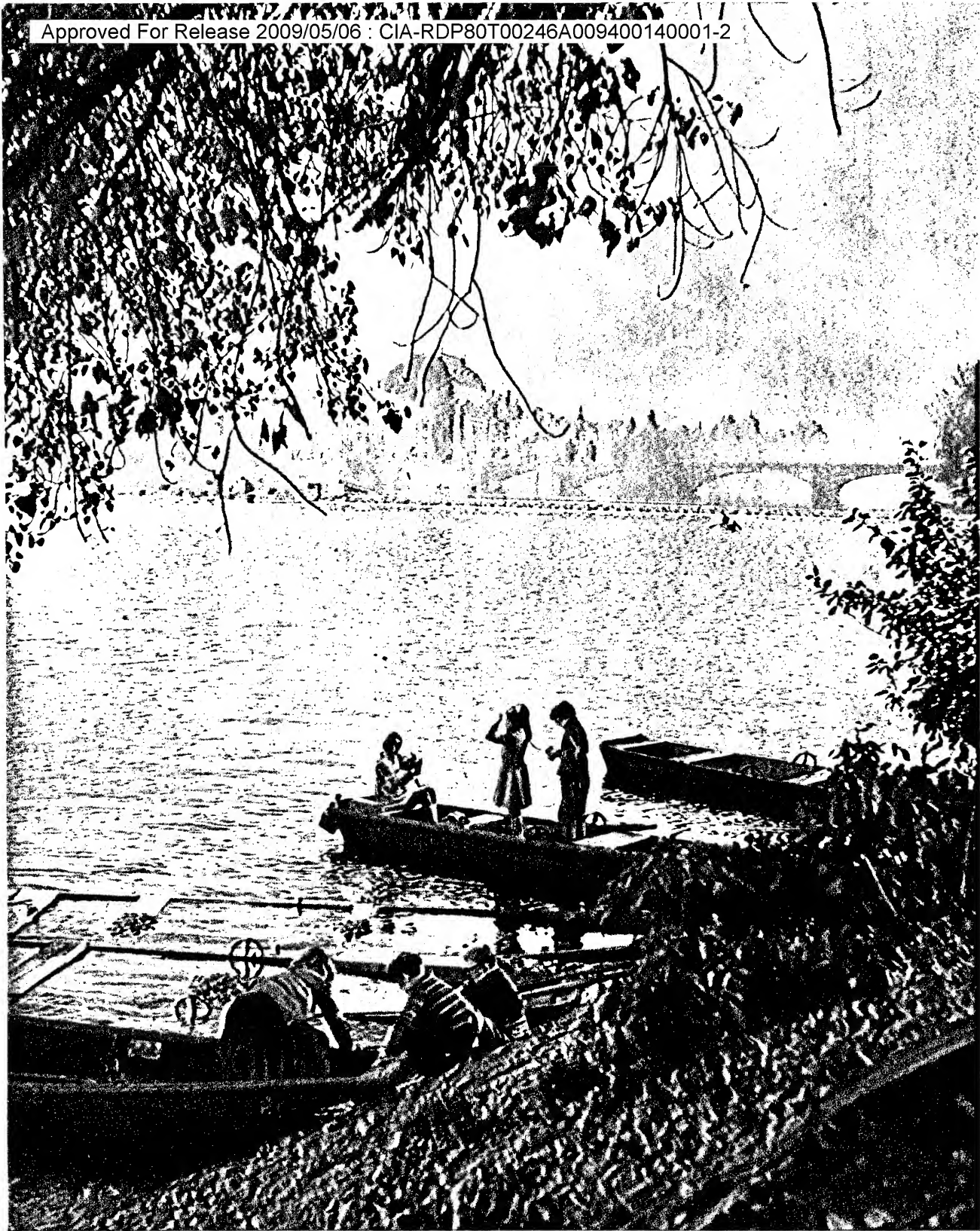




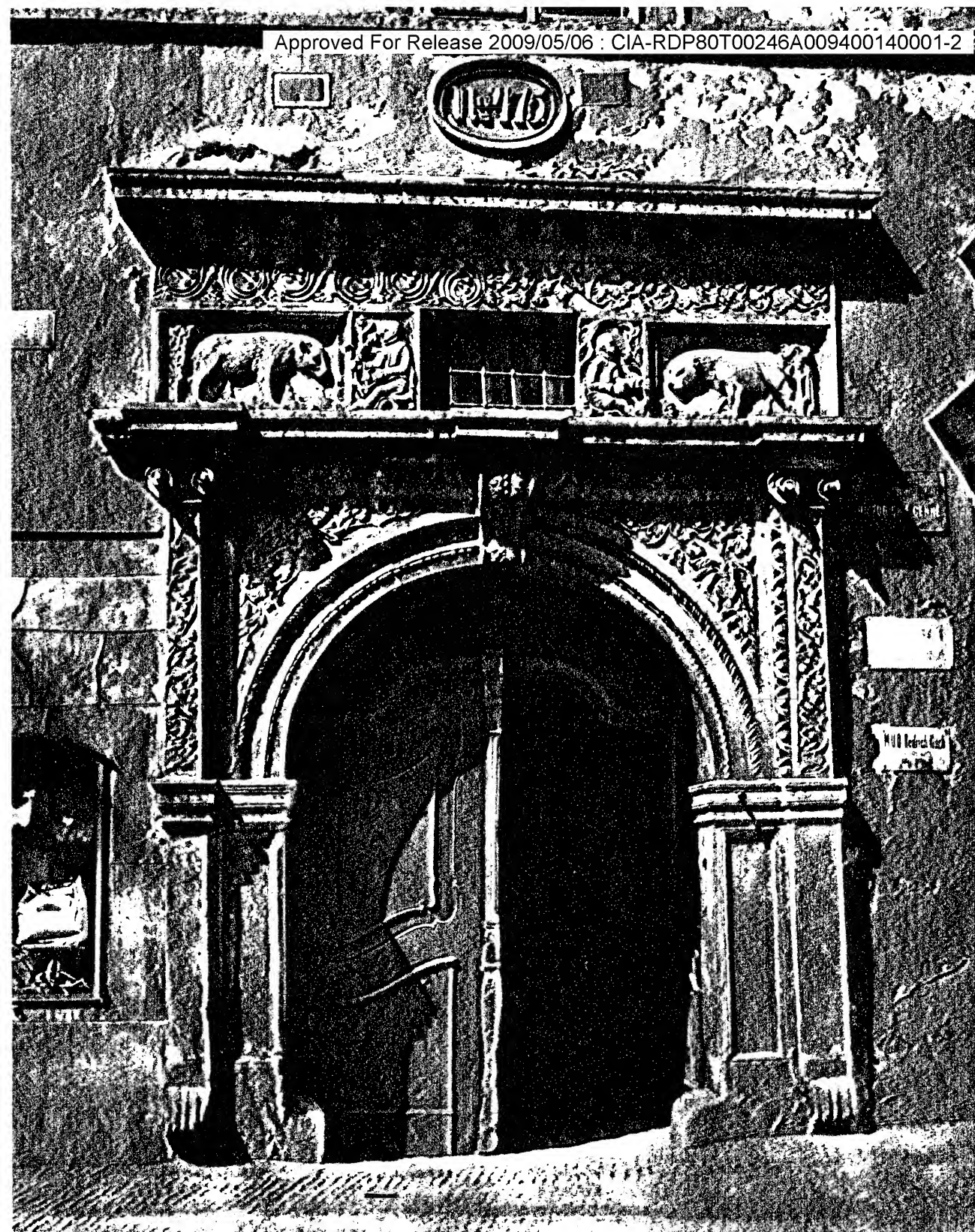
The boat and the town at peace





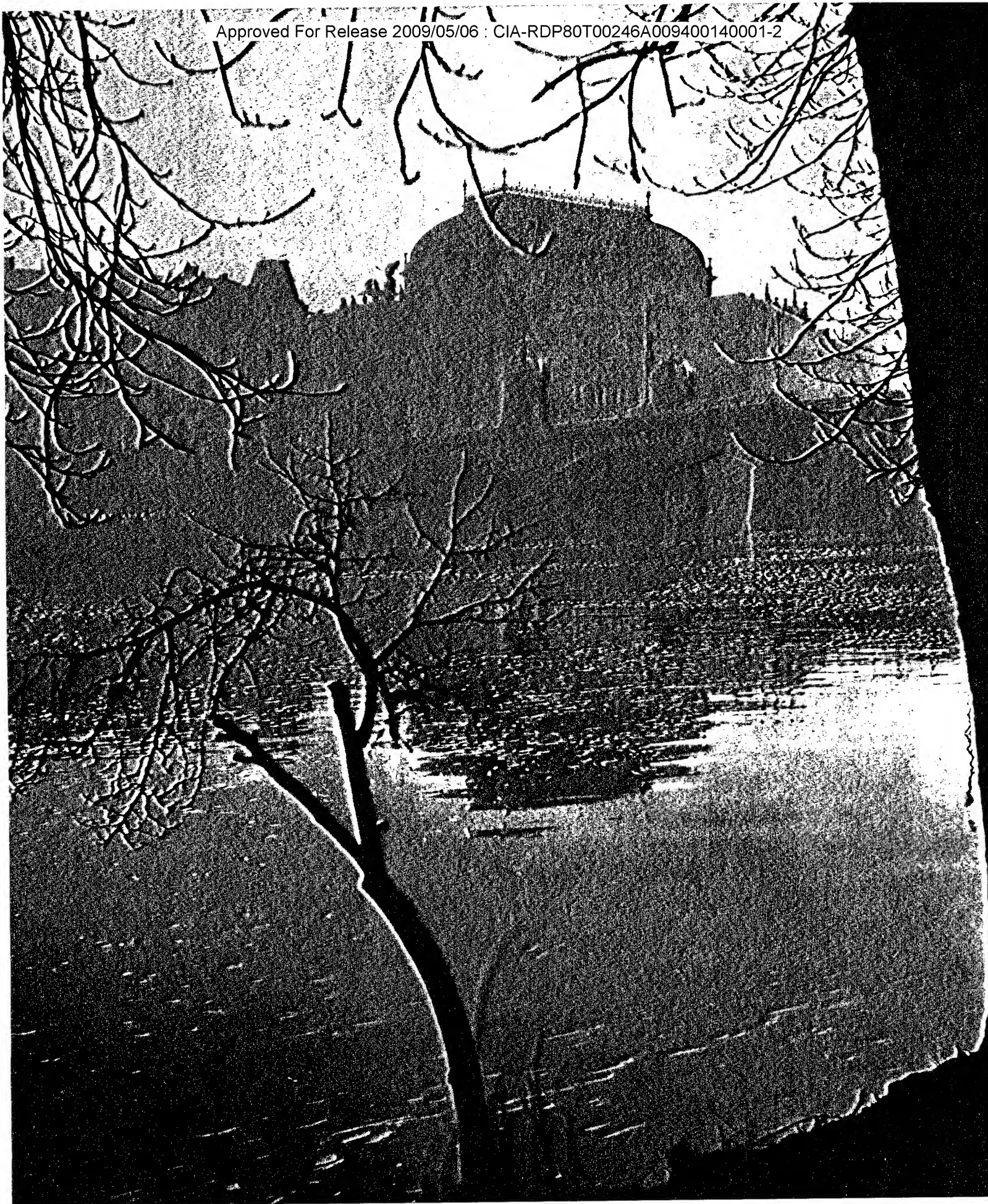


The Vitava has the attraction of the sea for children





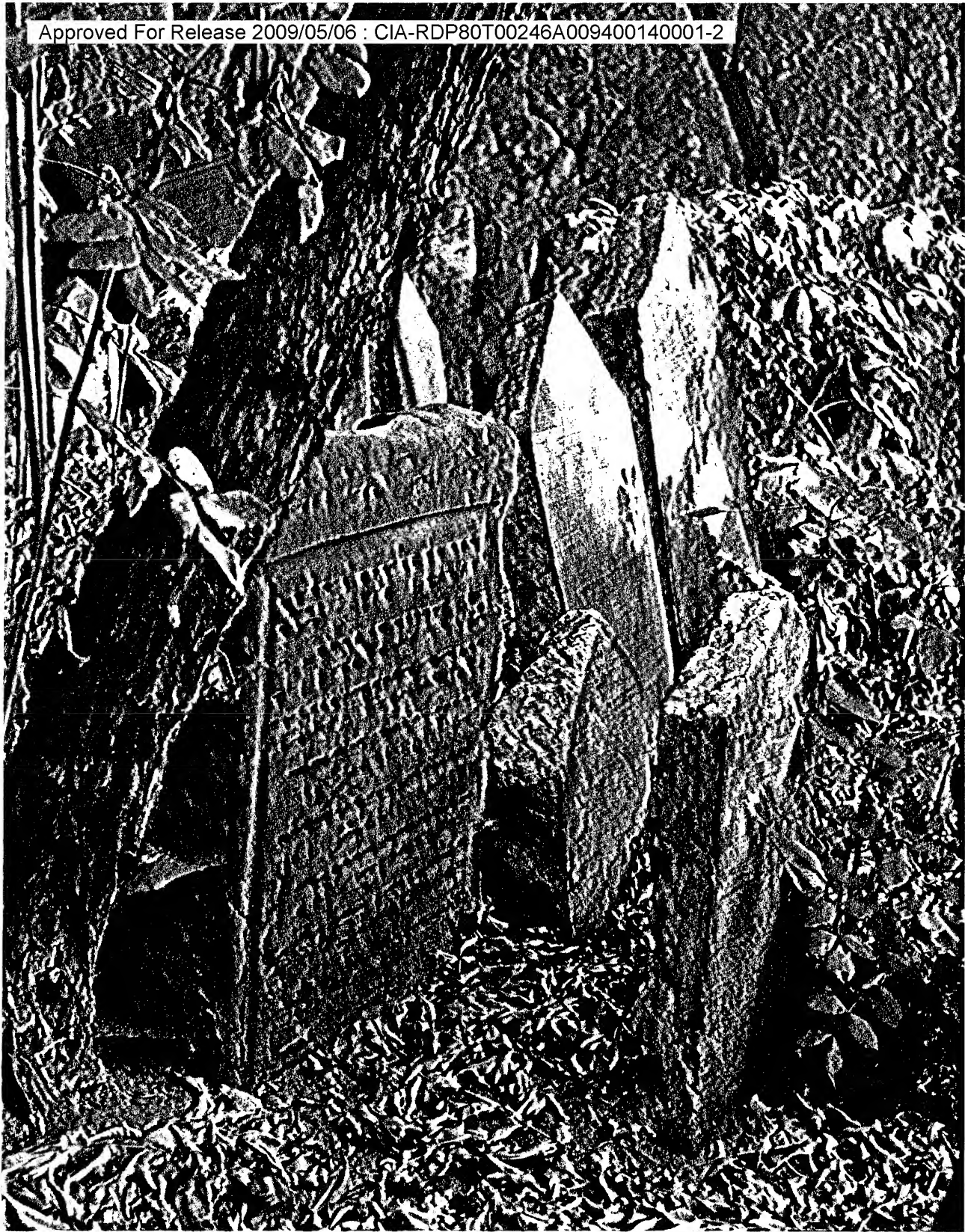
Approved For Release 2009/05/06 : CIA-RDP80T00246A009400140001-2



Approved For Release 2009/05/06 : CIA-RDP80T00246A009400140001-2







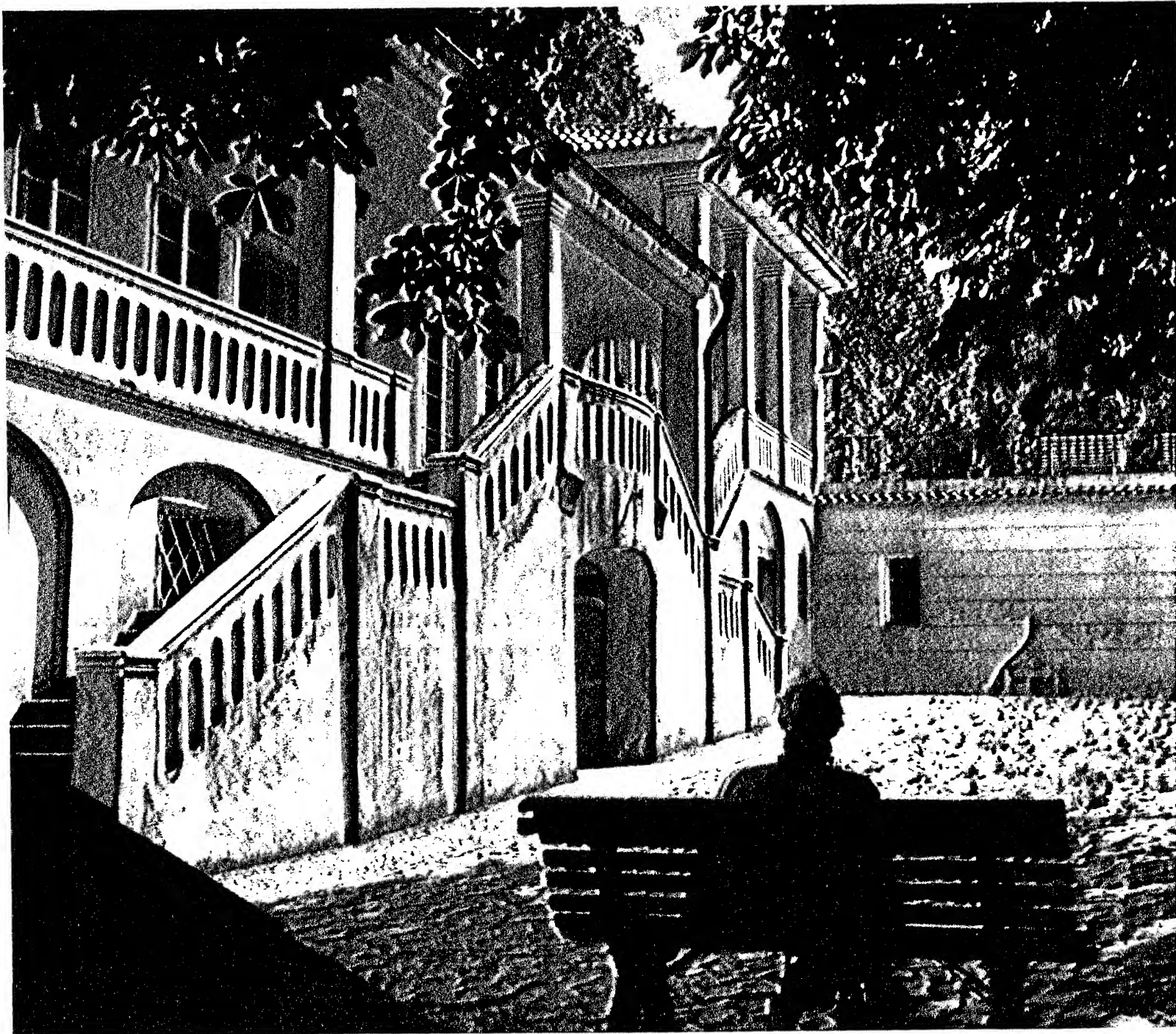
Silent graves







Praise of the water elements





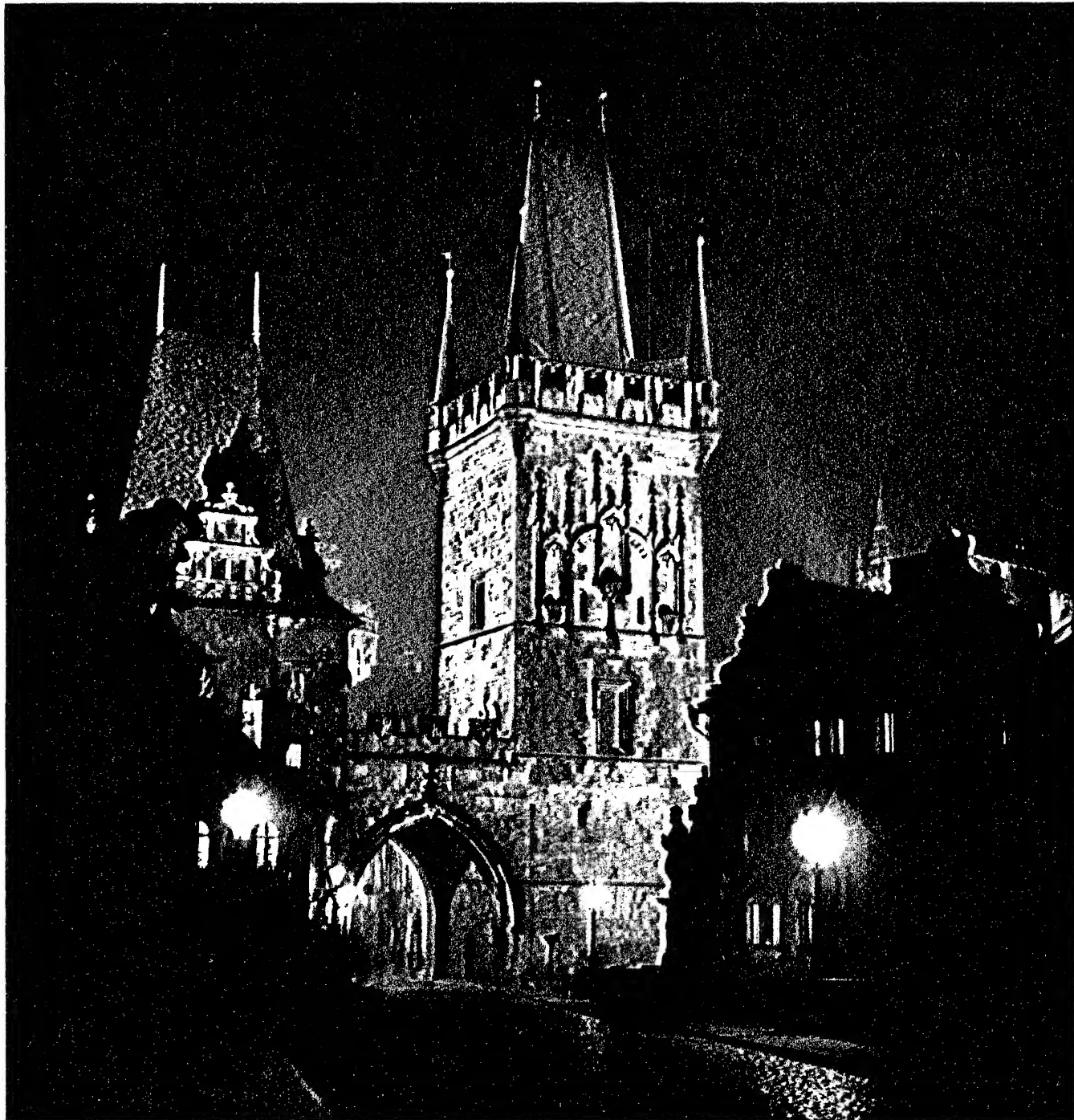


The end of the day

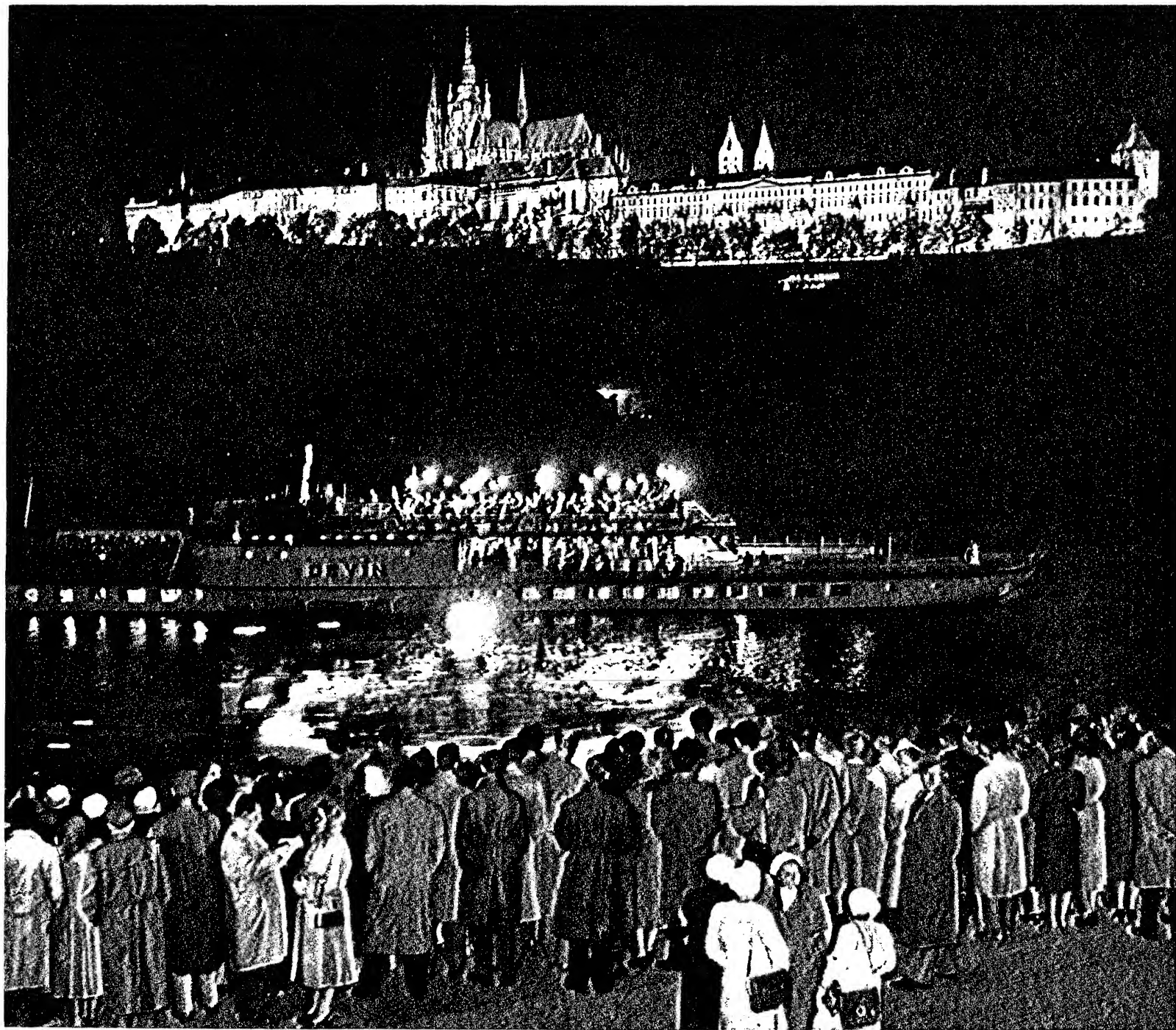




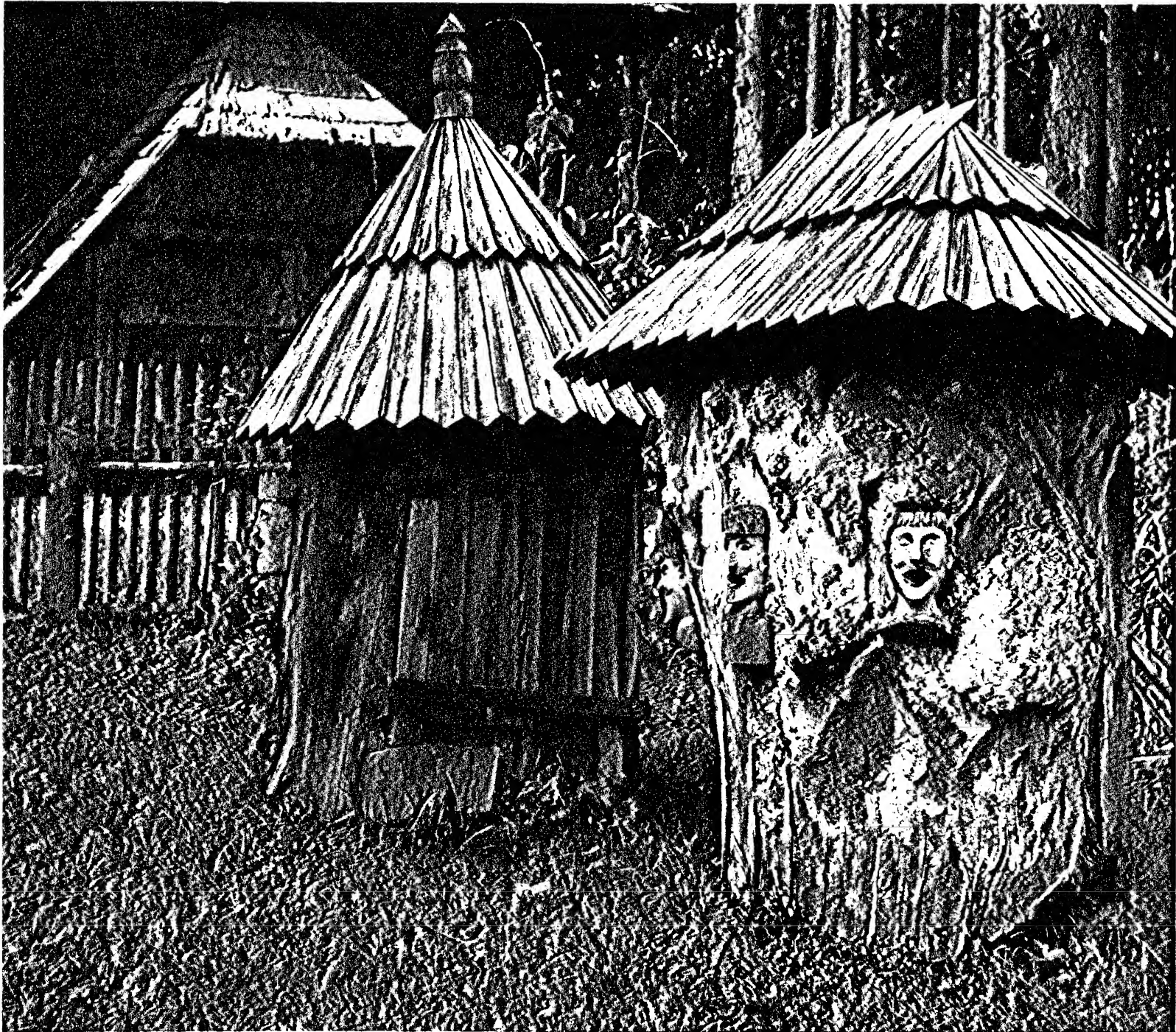








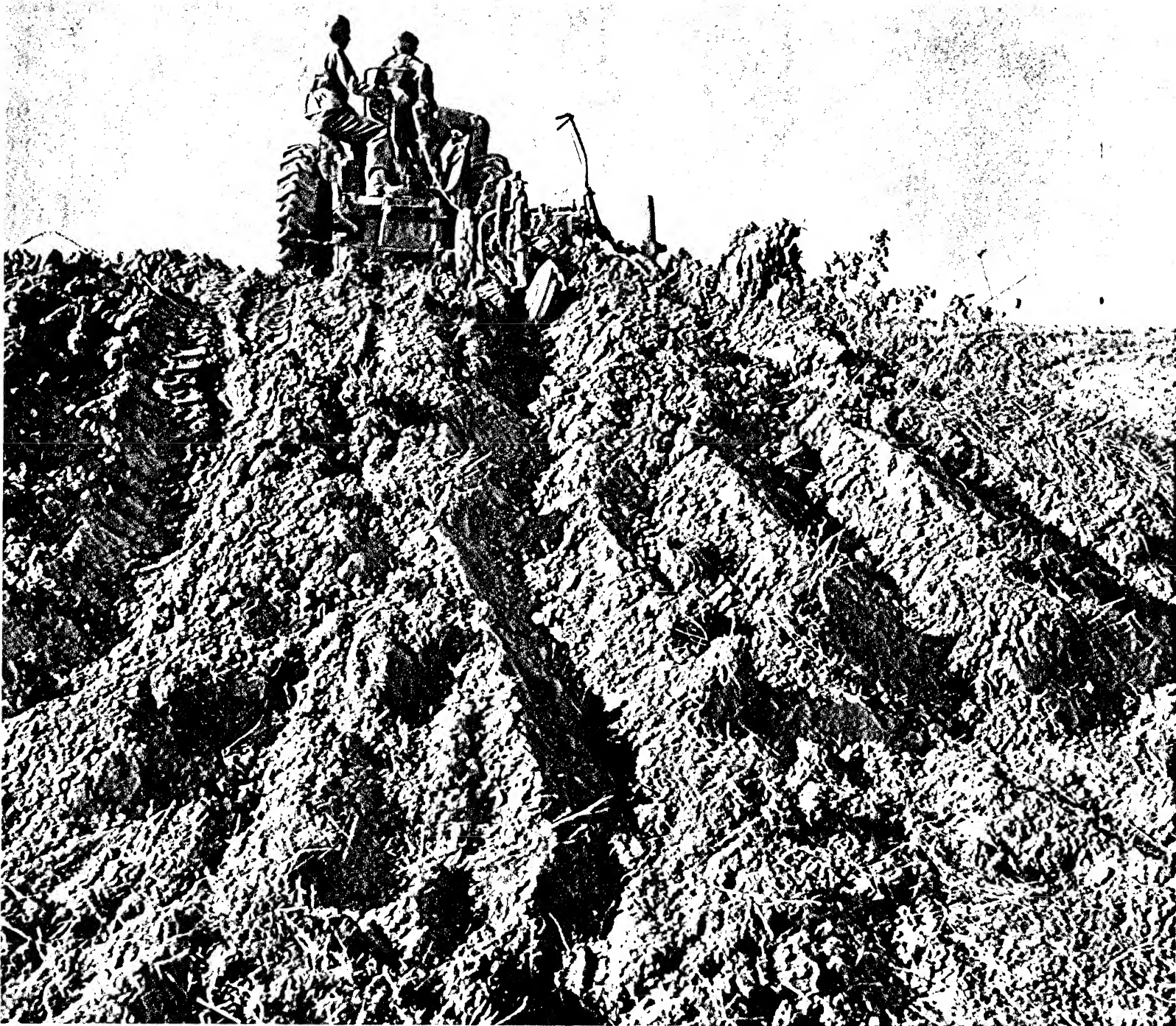
Three steps on the path to perfection







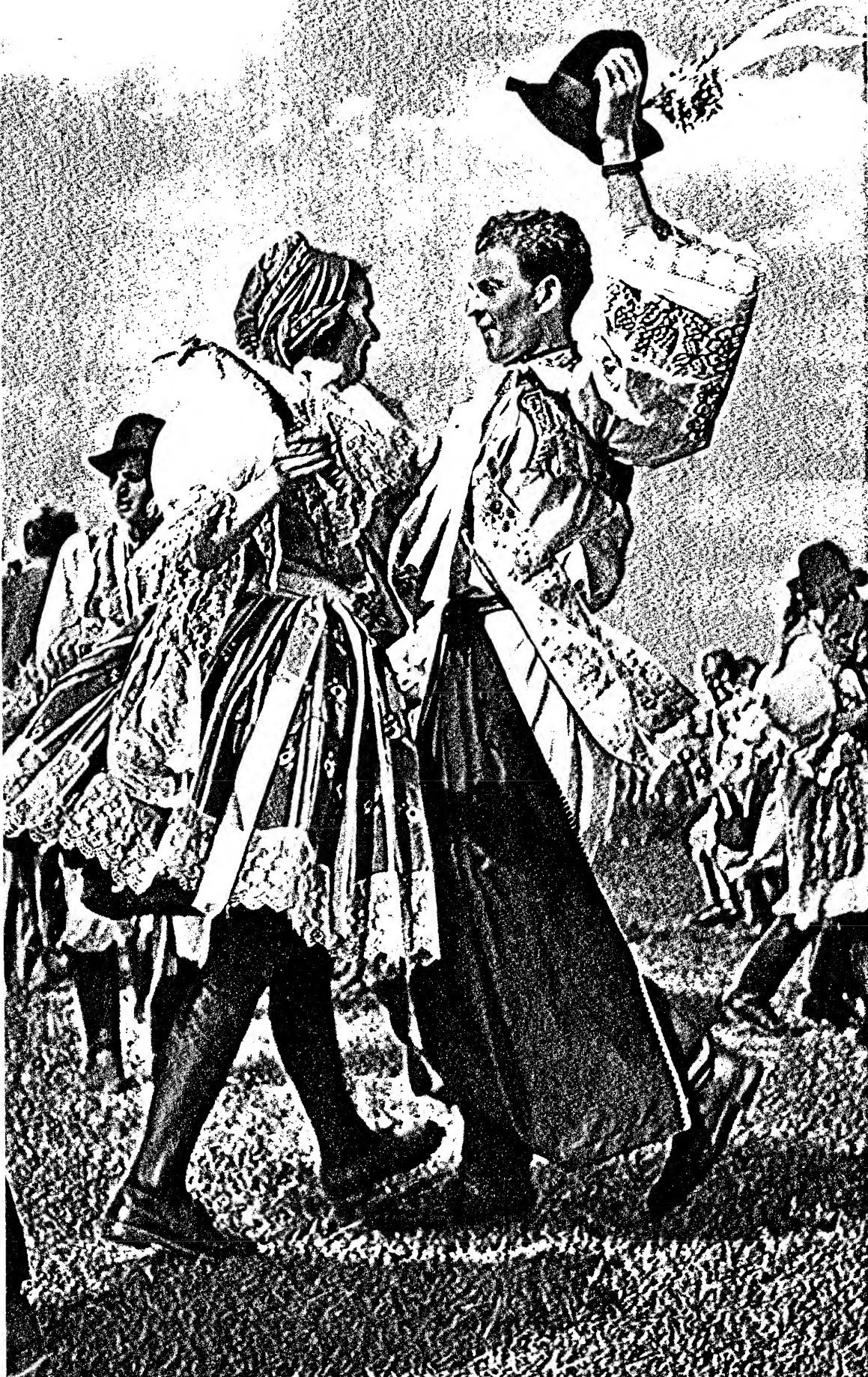
The face of the people







On the road to bread

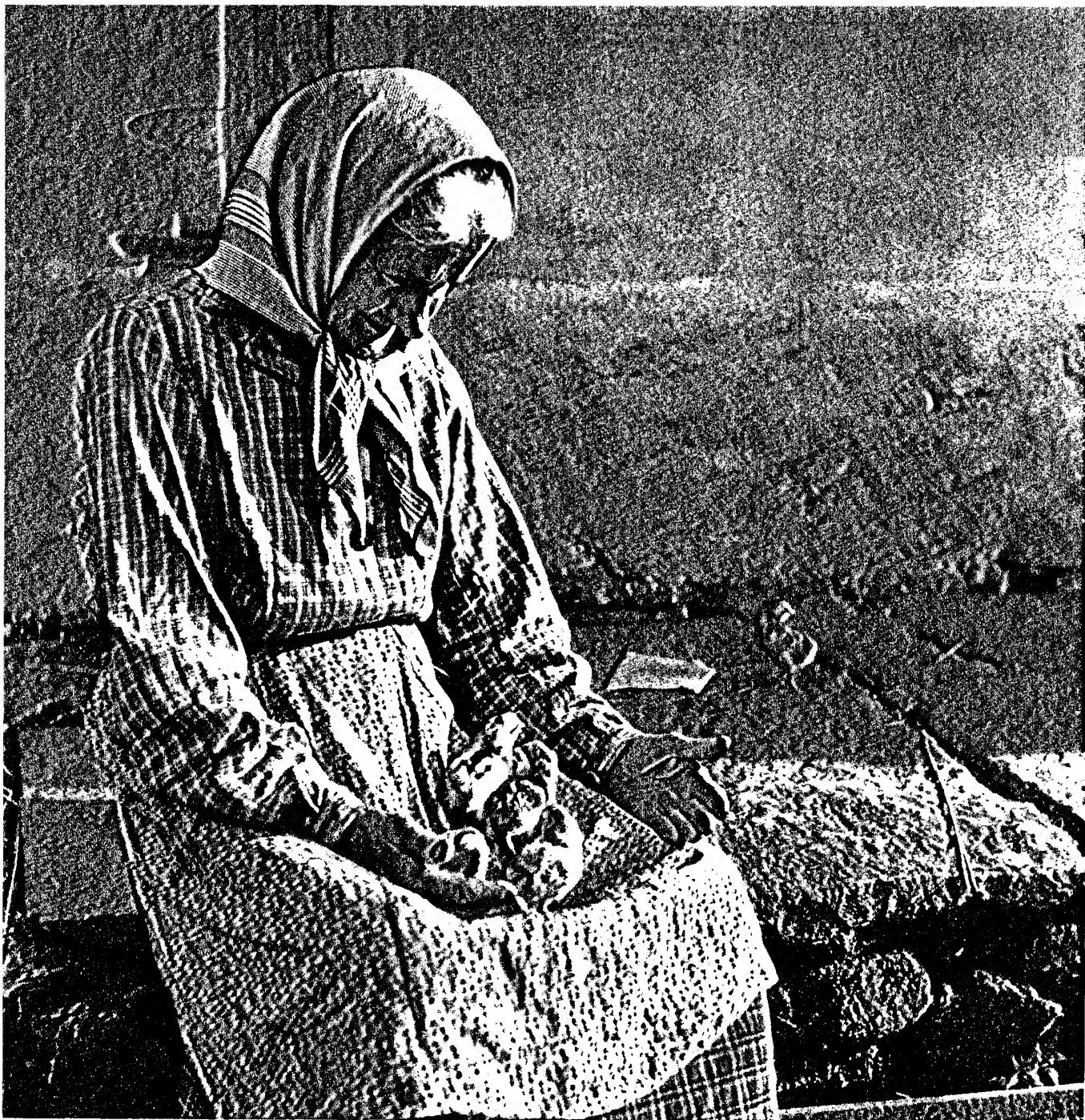


The art of rejoicing





The children of the earth







Vineyard without Dionysos



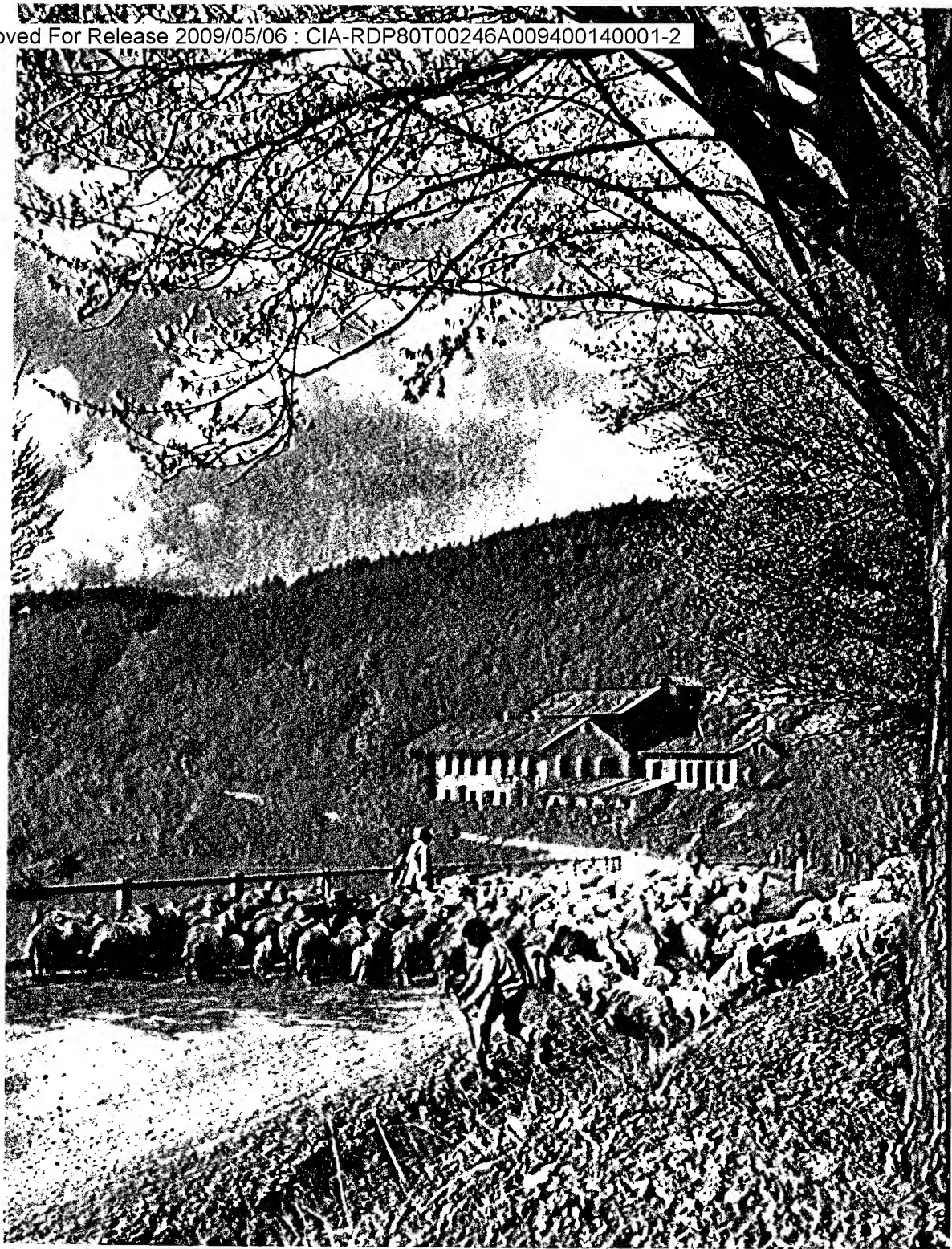




Plenty







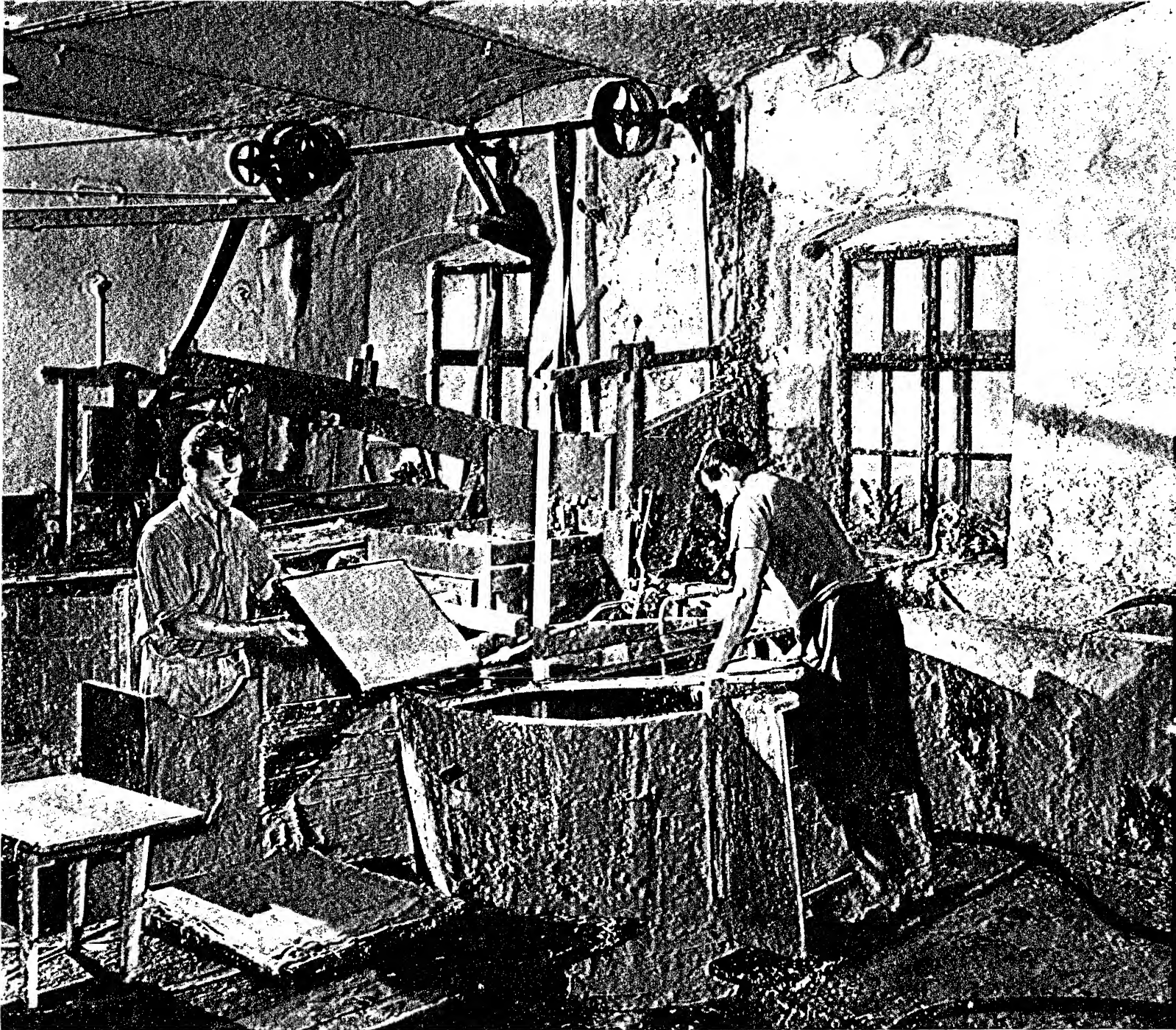
An ancient tale







...and the beerdrinker's too





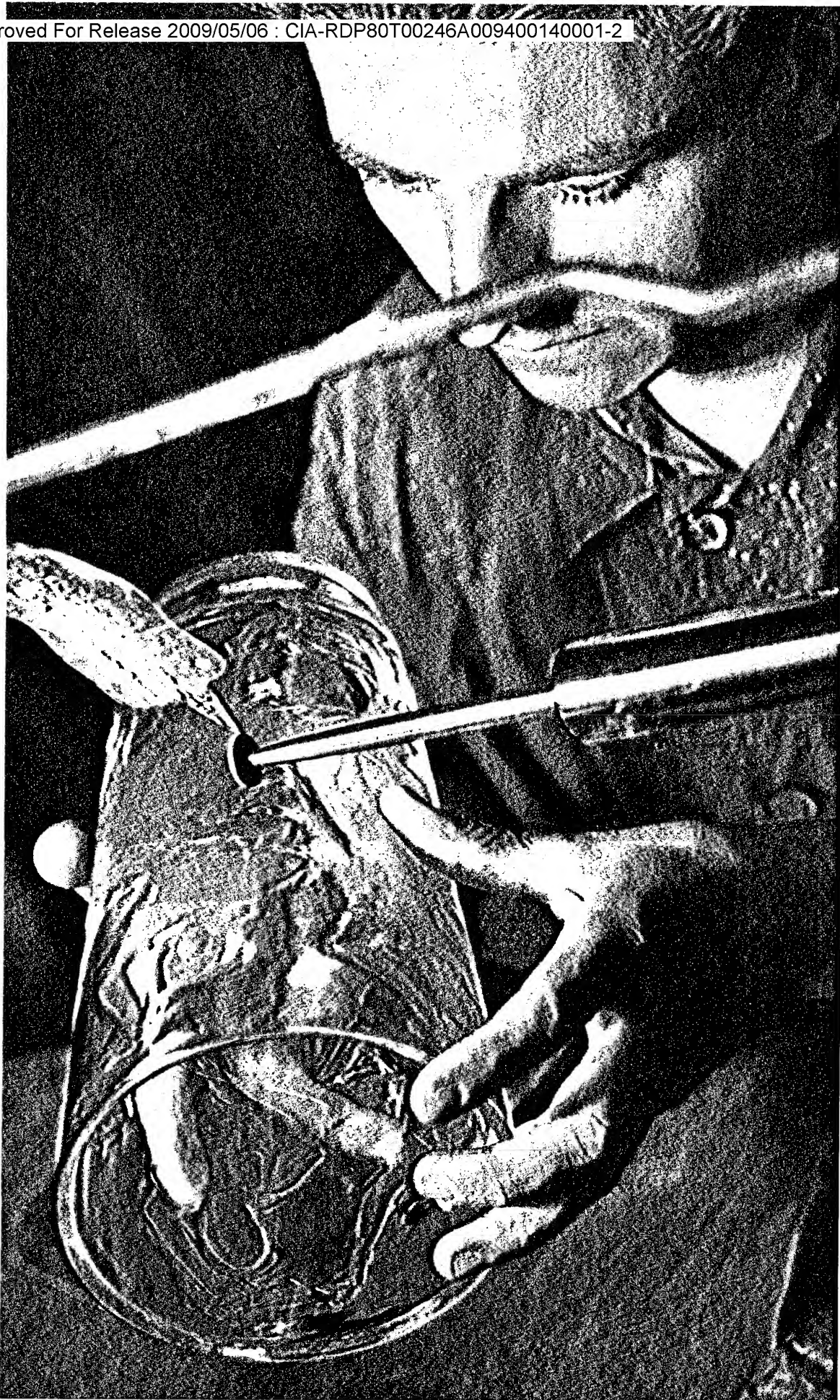




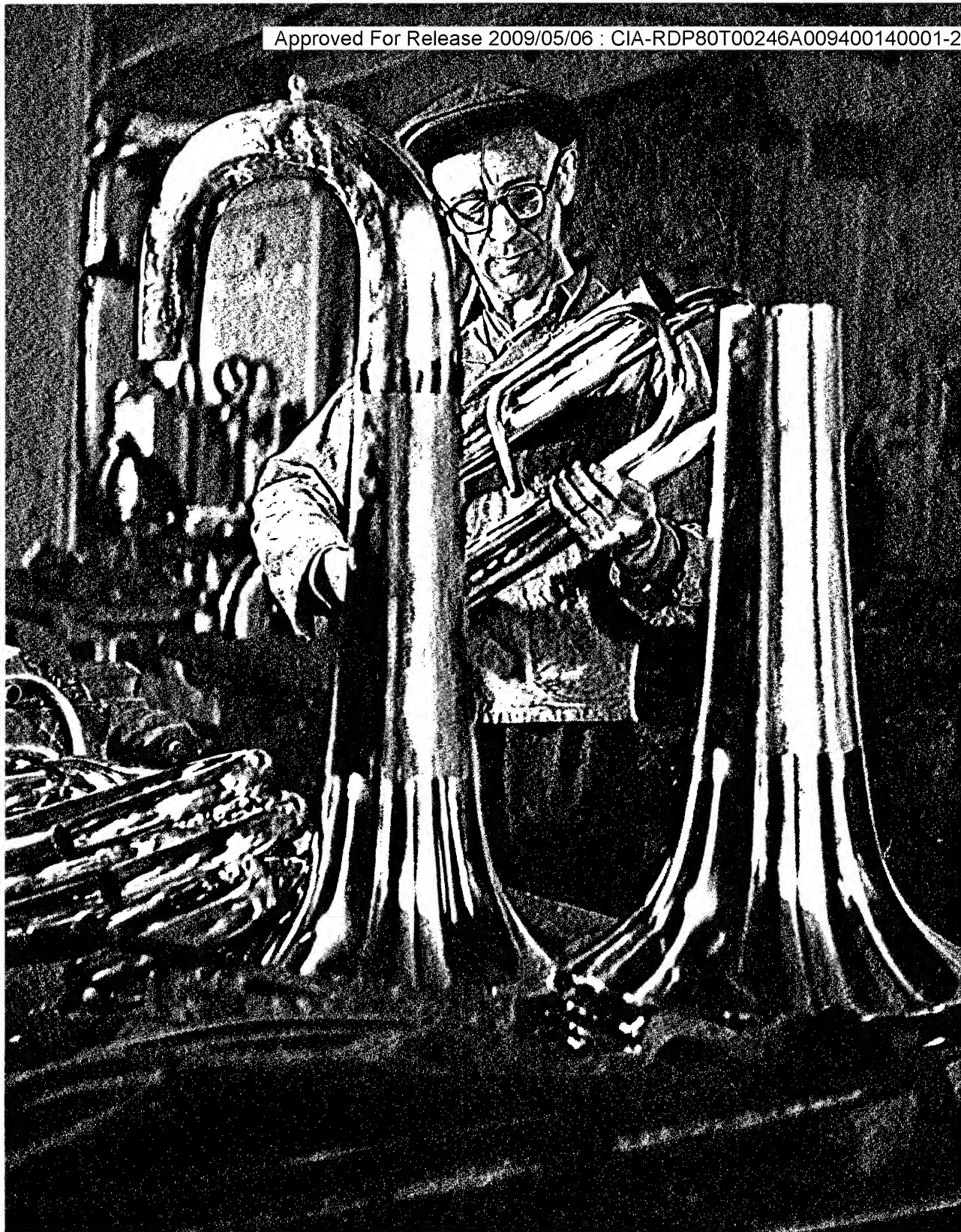
Fragile poetry

126

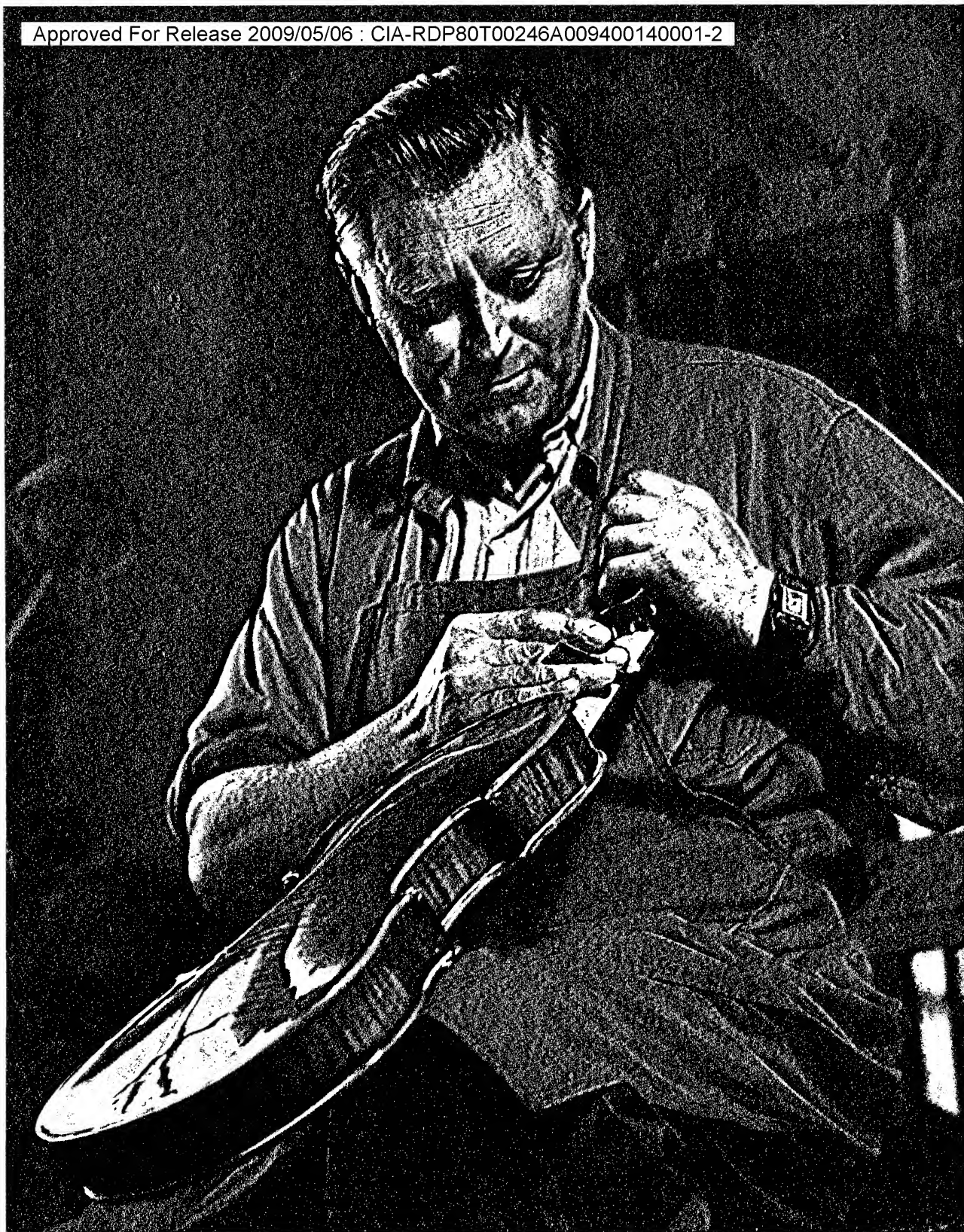




...and prose







The one for whom there is no applause



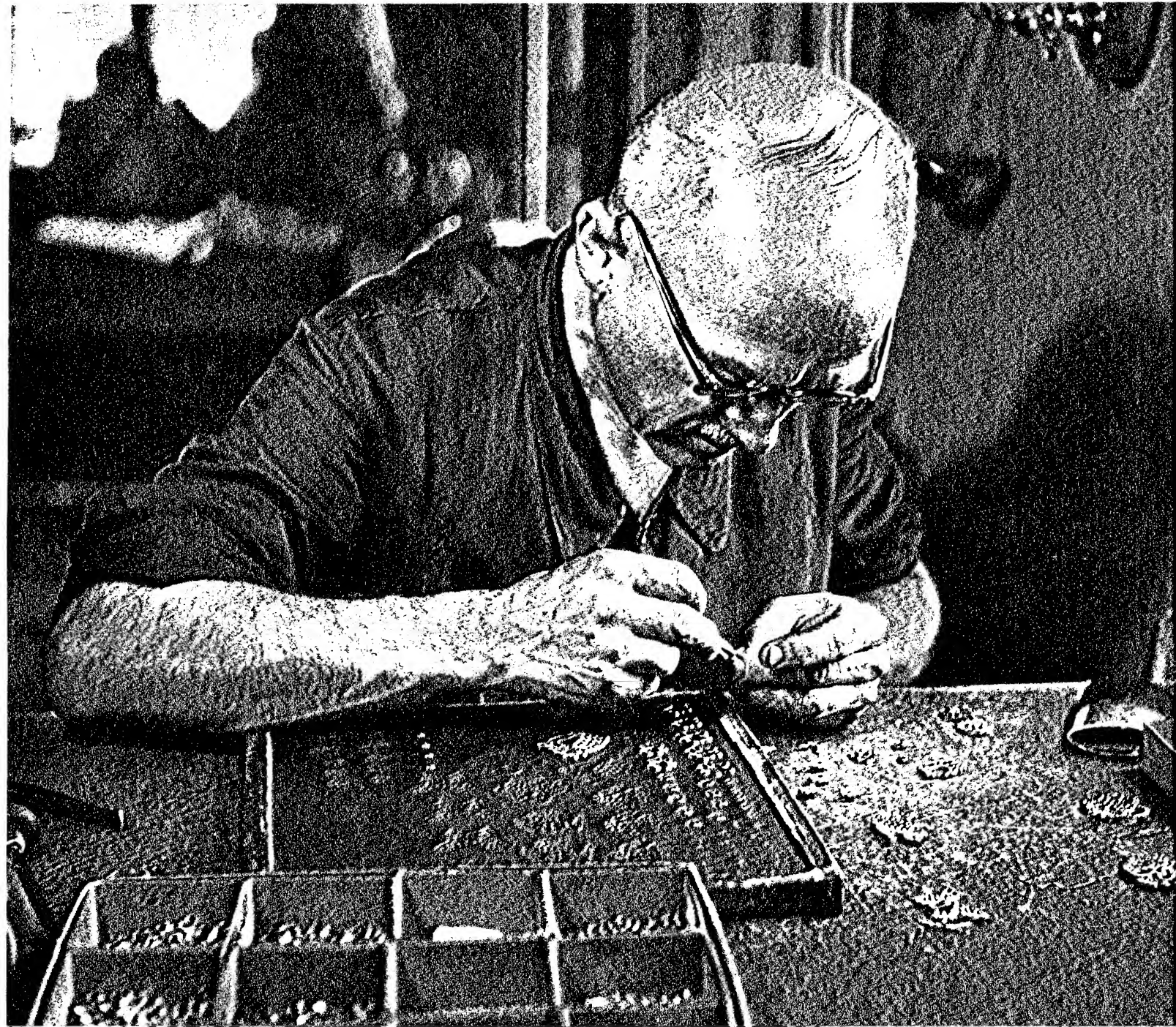




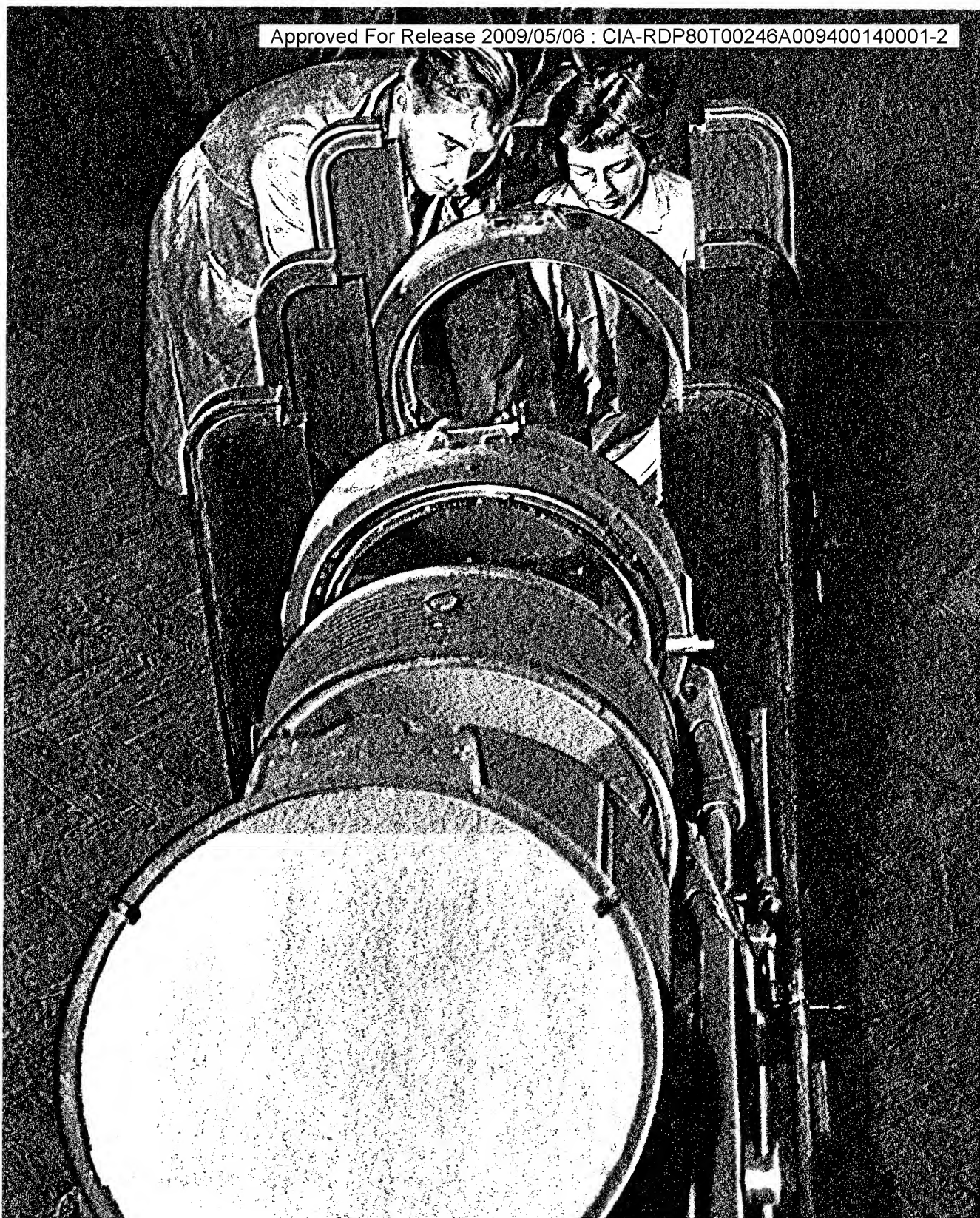
Thinking of a silk dress?







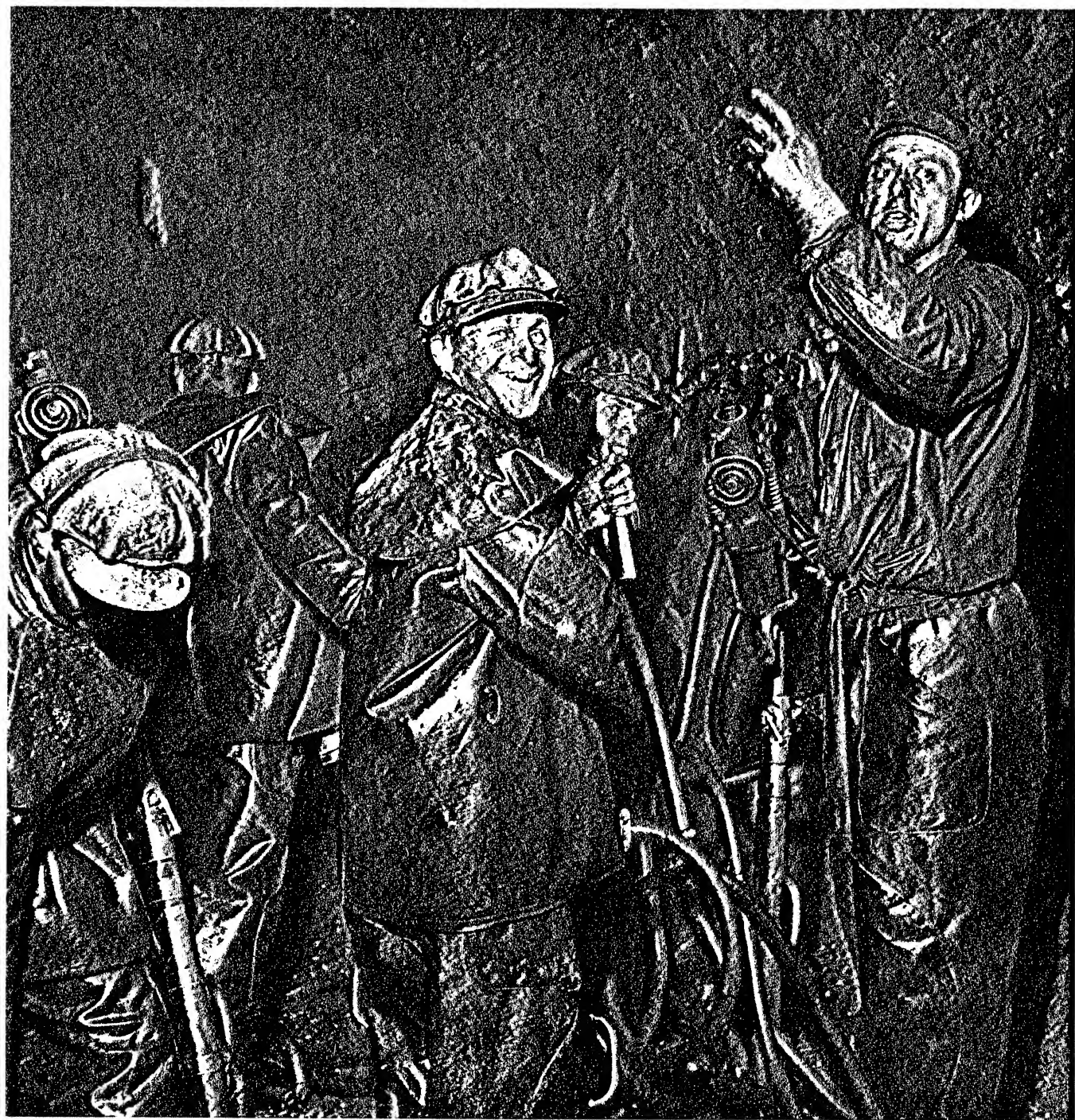
Sober preparations for glittering charm







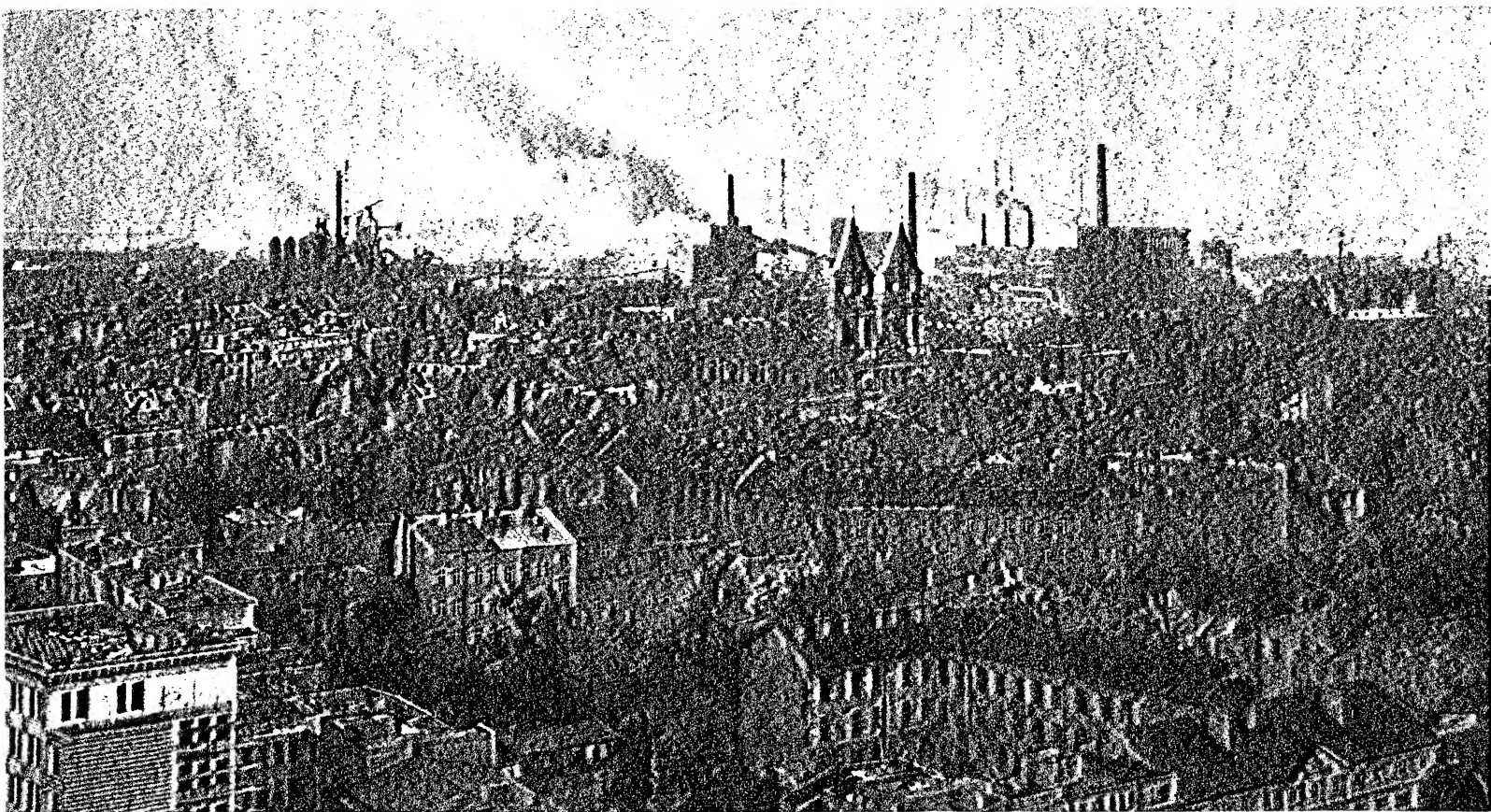
...and the pleasant



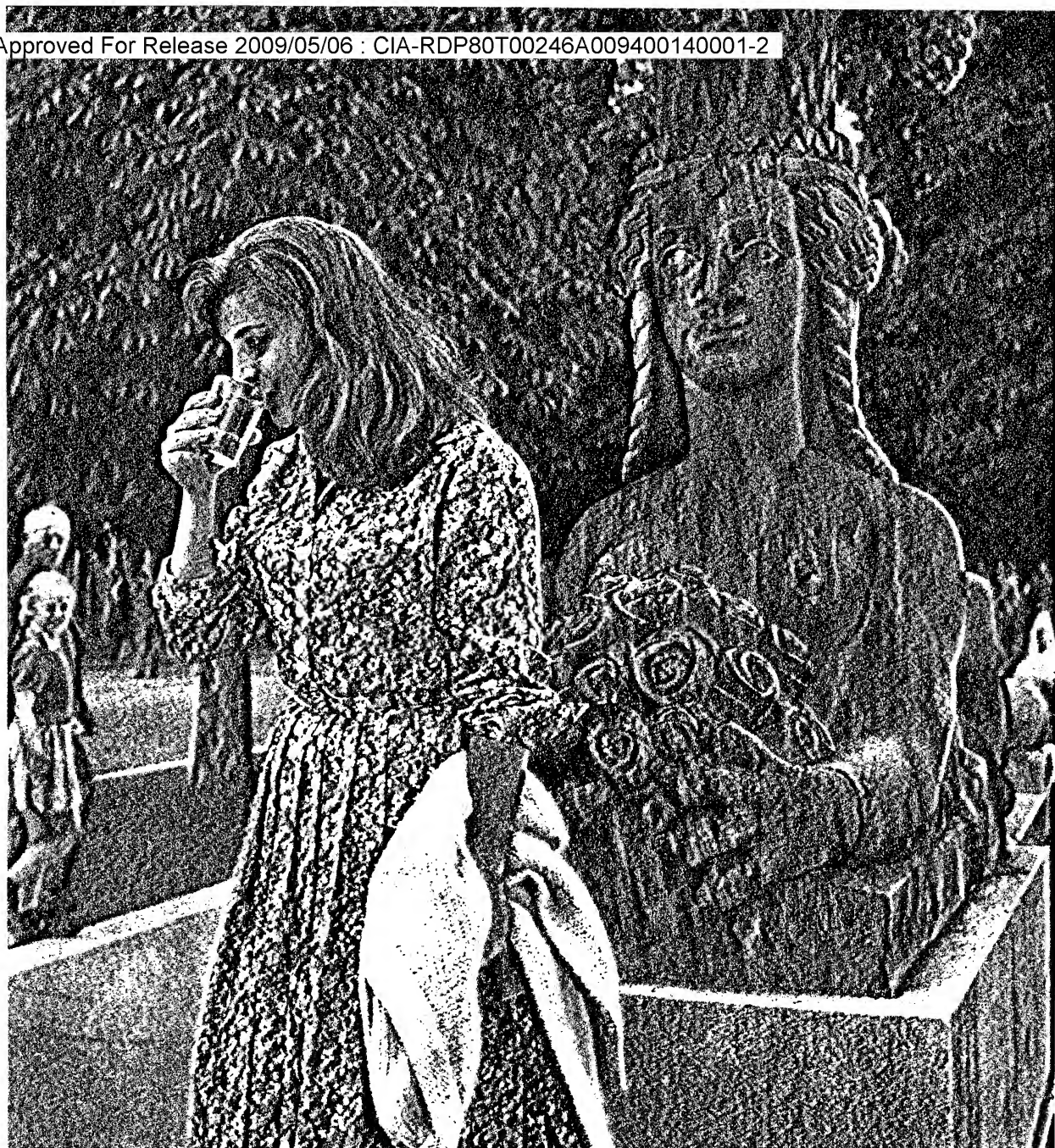




A hero of our days



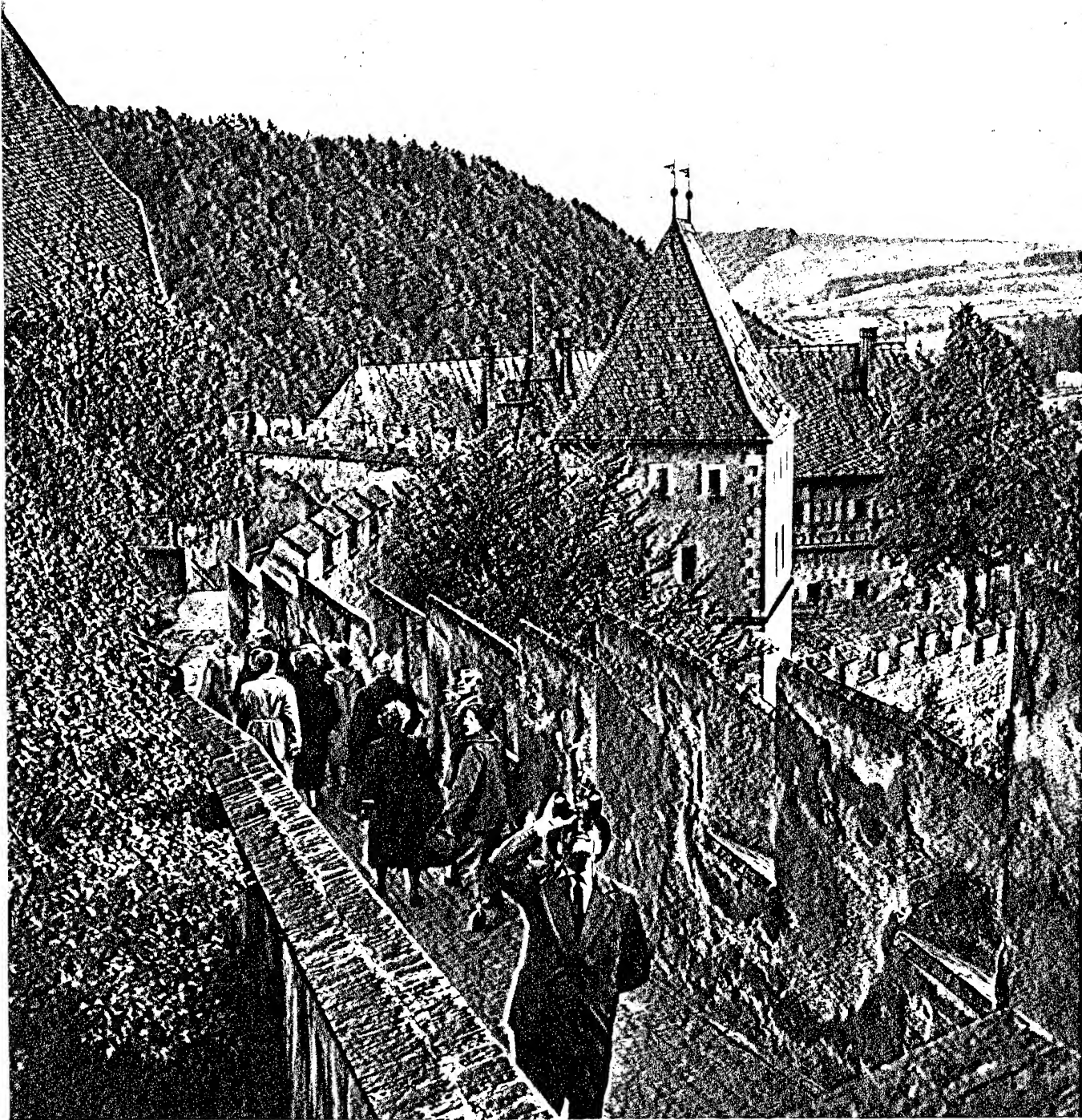




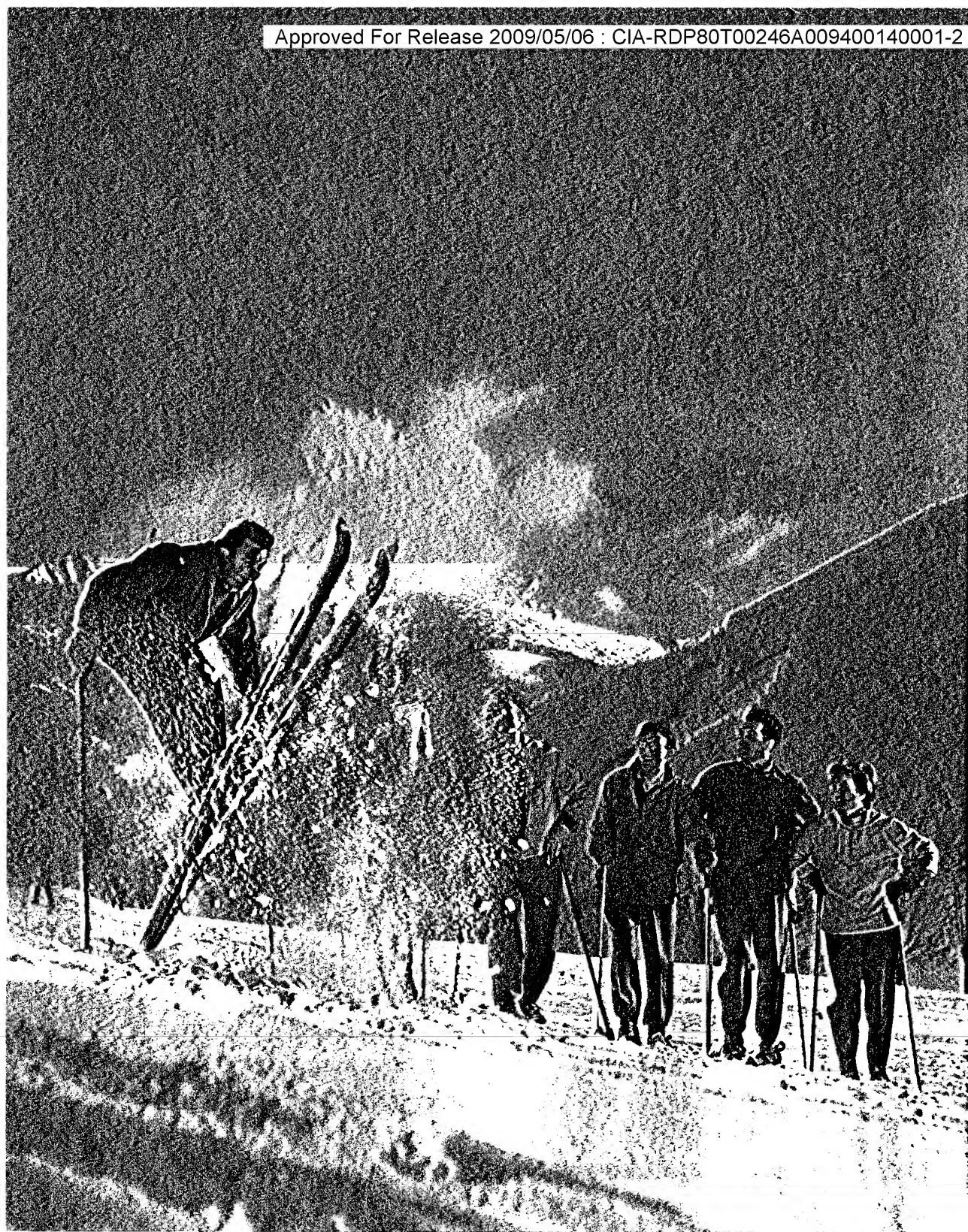
Theme from a spa



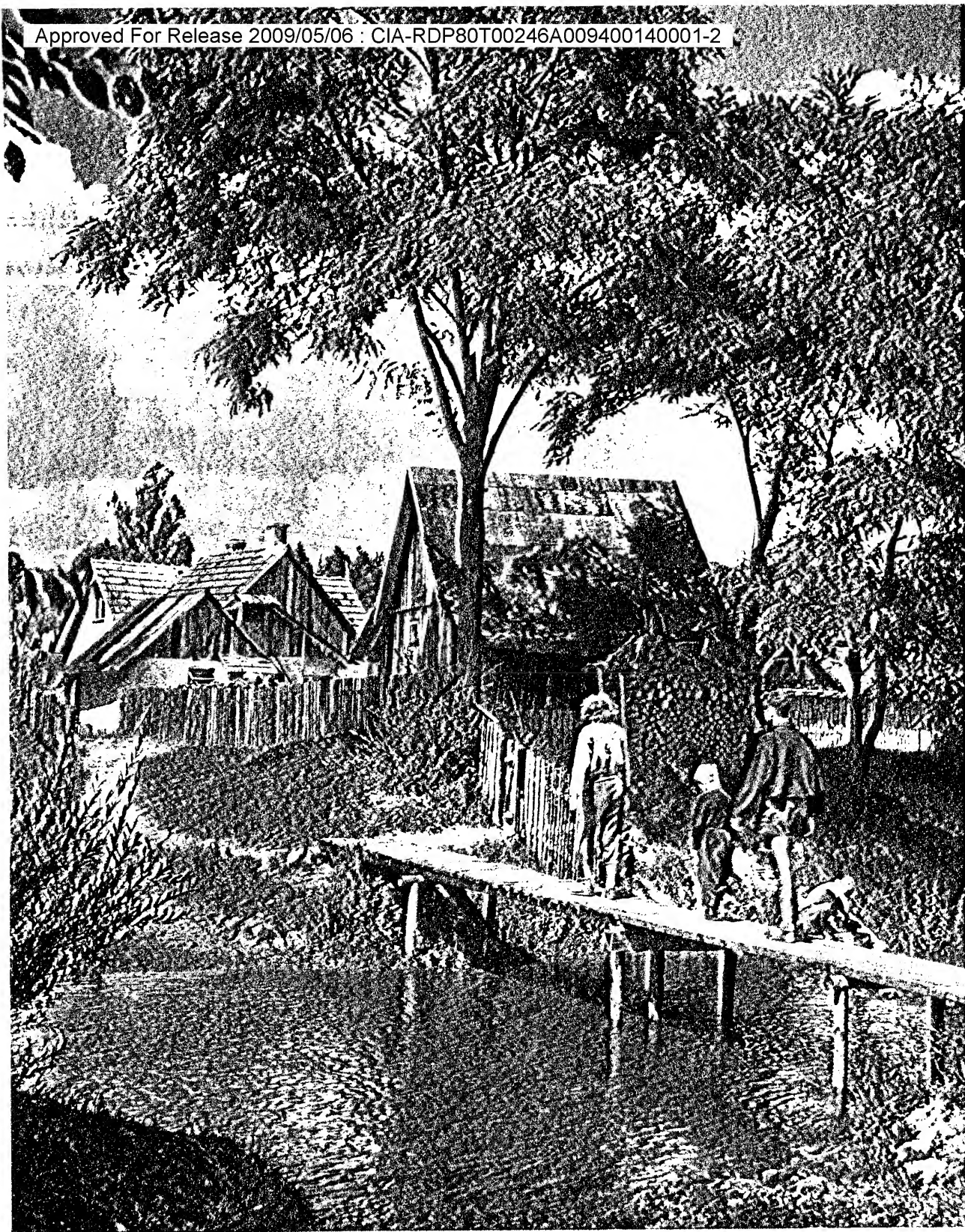




The enchanted wanderer underneath the Castle





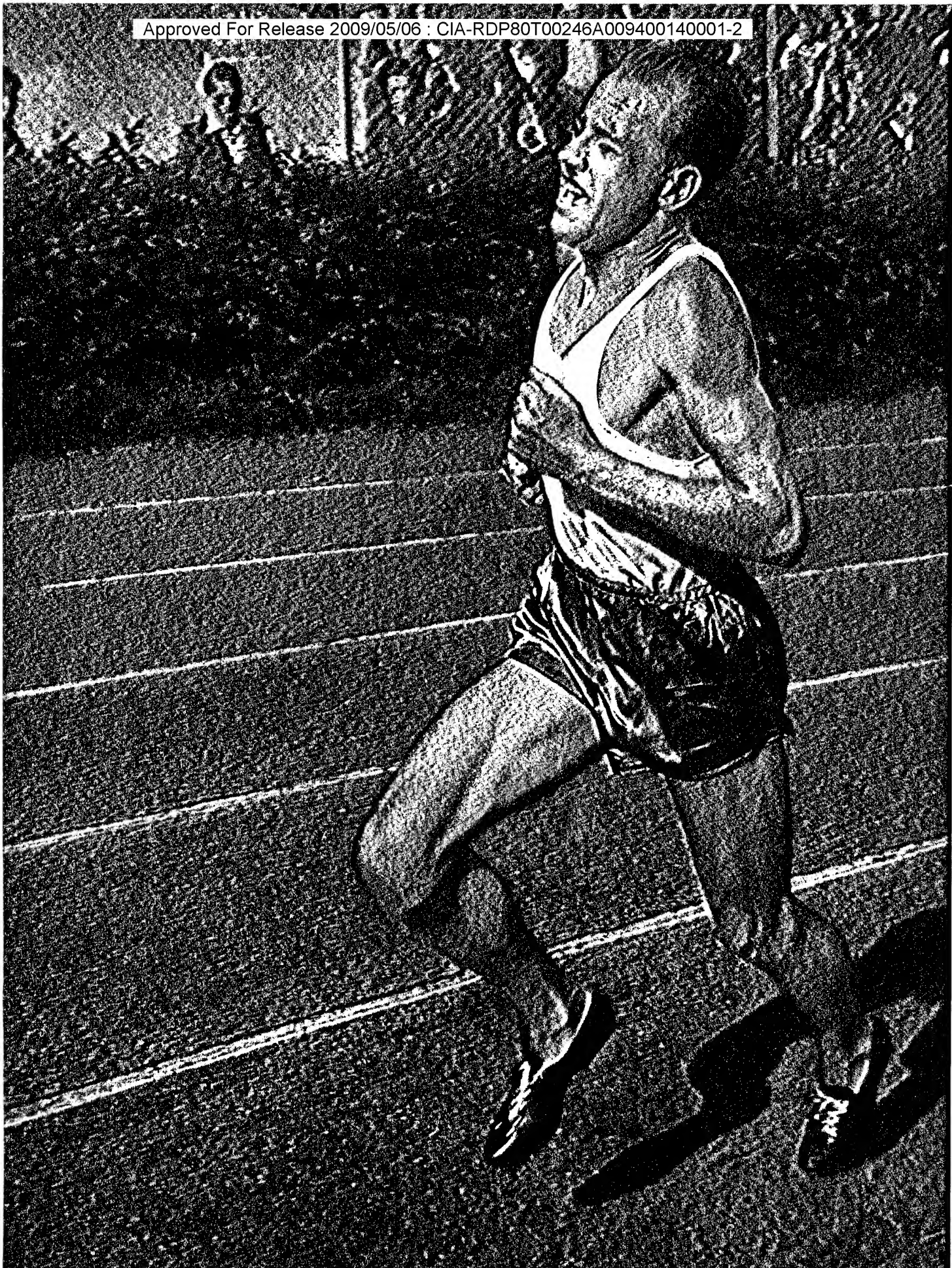


Summer holidays

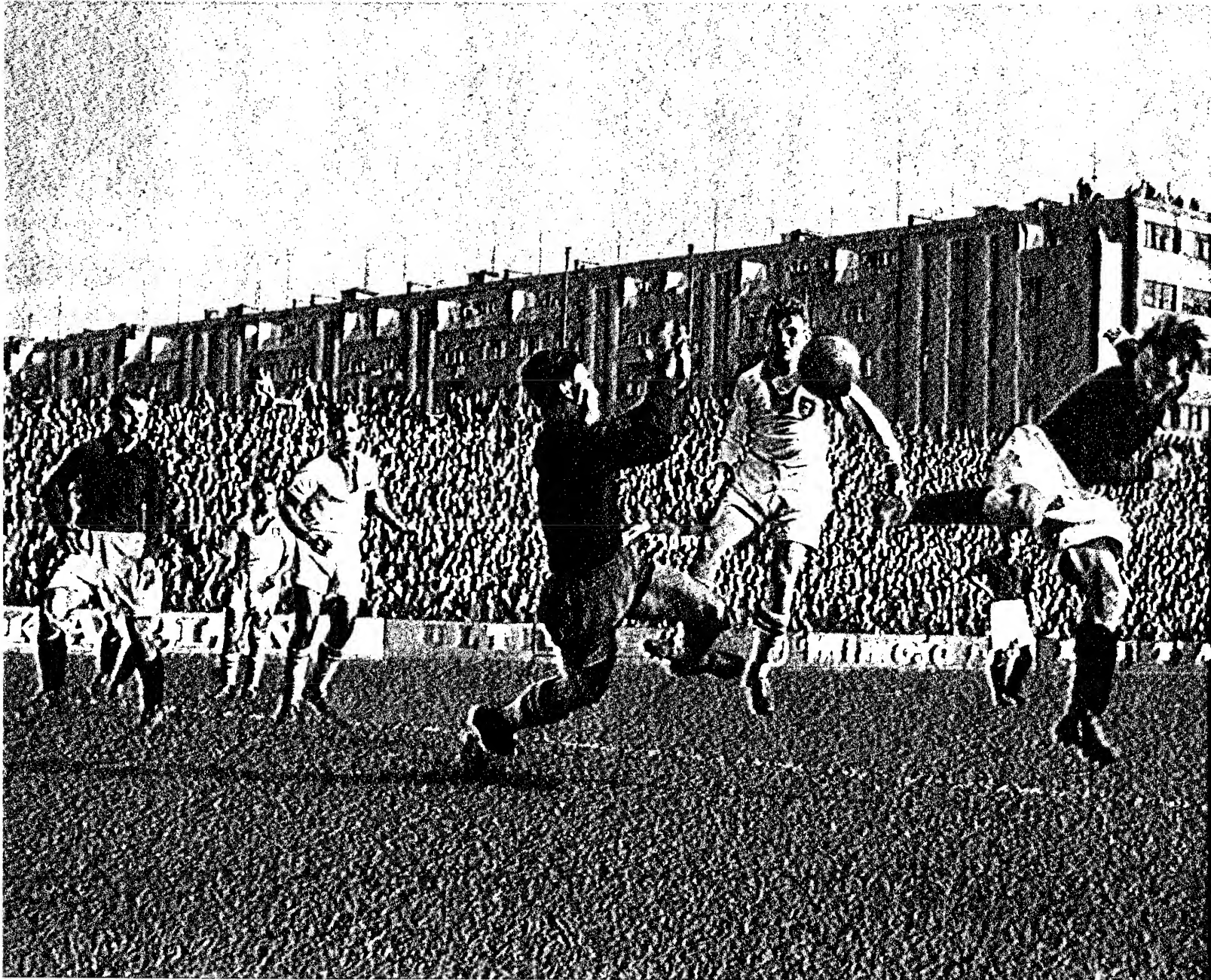




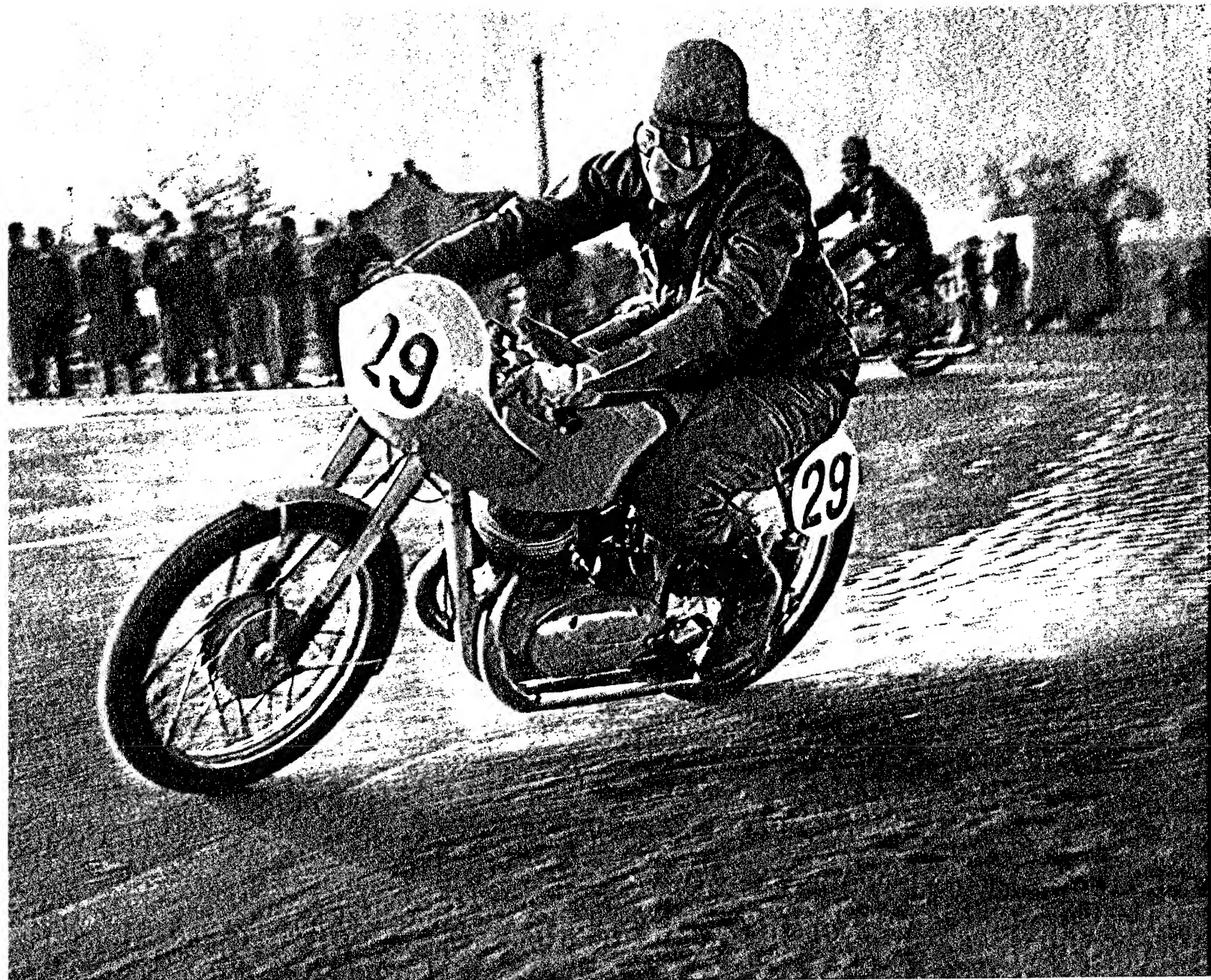
Approved For Release 2009/05/06 : CIA-RDP80T00246A009400140001-2



Approved For Release 2009/05/06 : CIA-RDP80T00246A009400140001-2





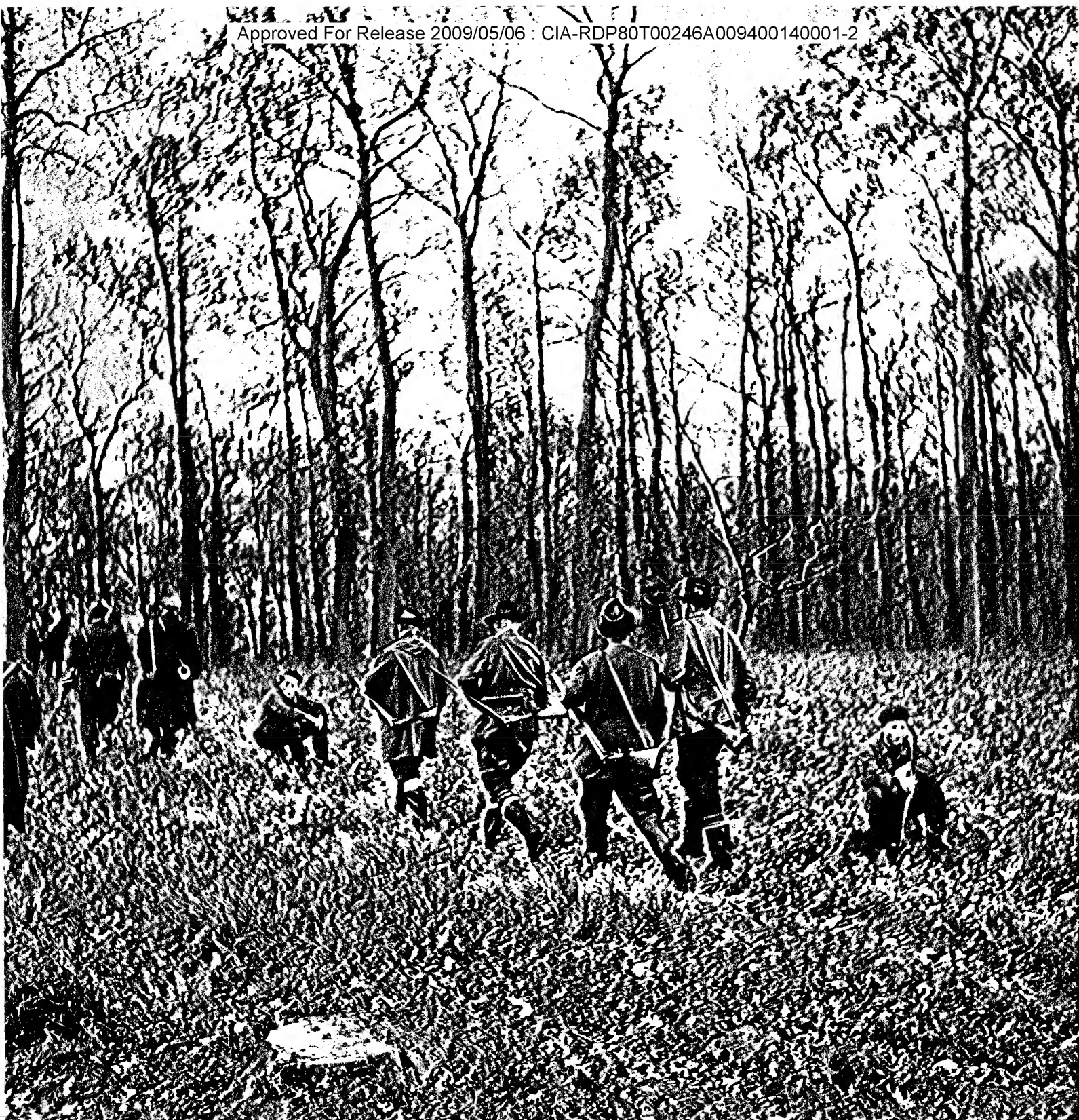


But this struggle may prove fatal

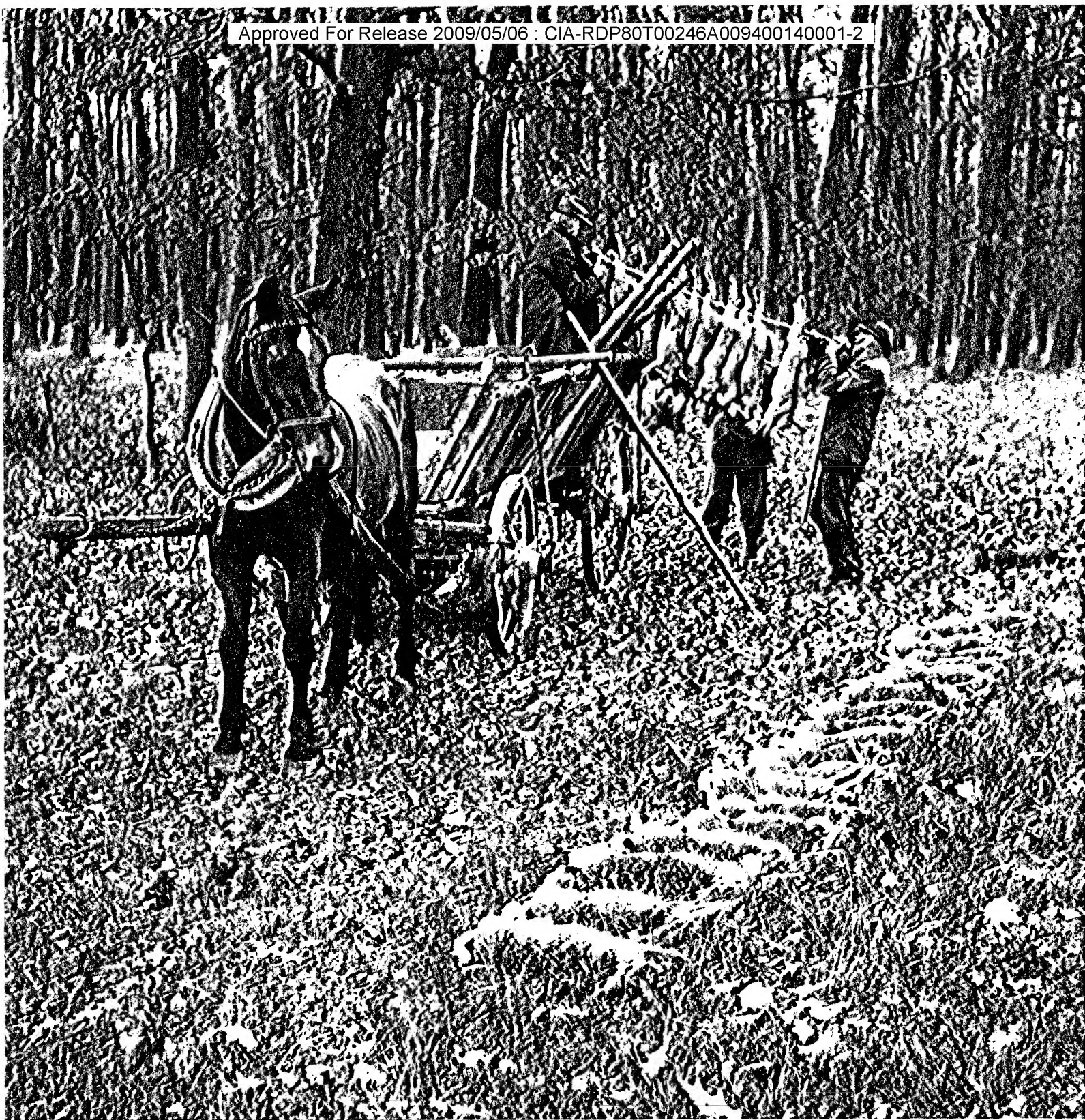
147



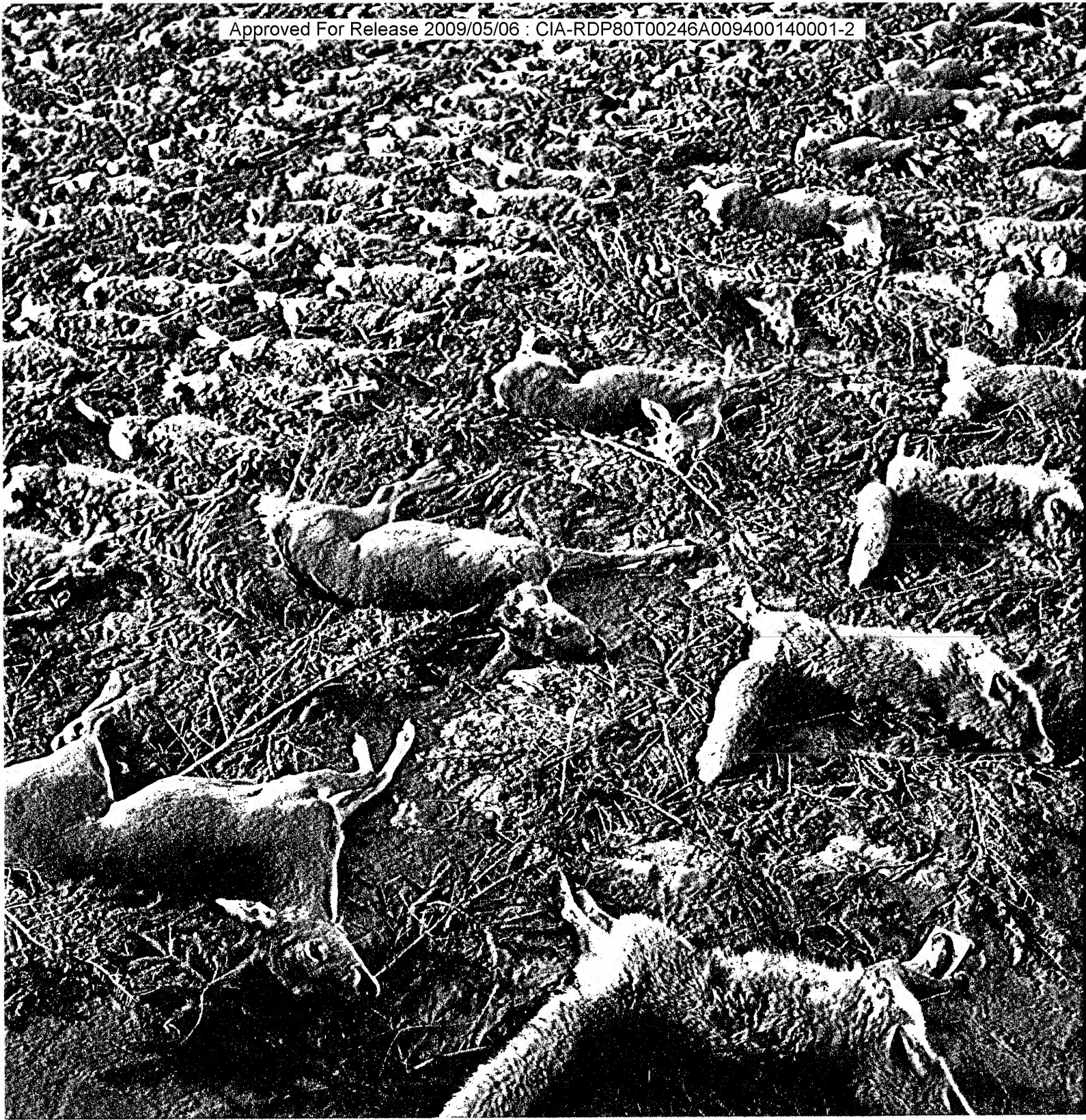




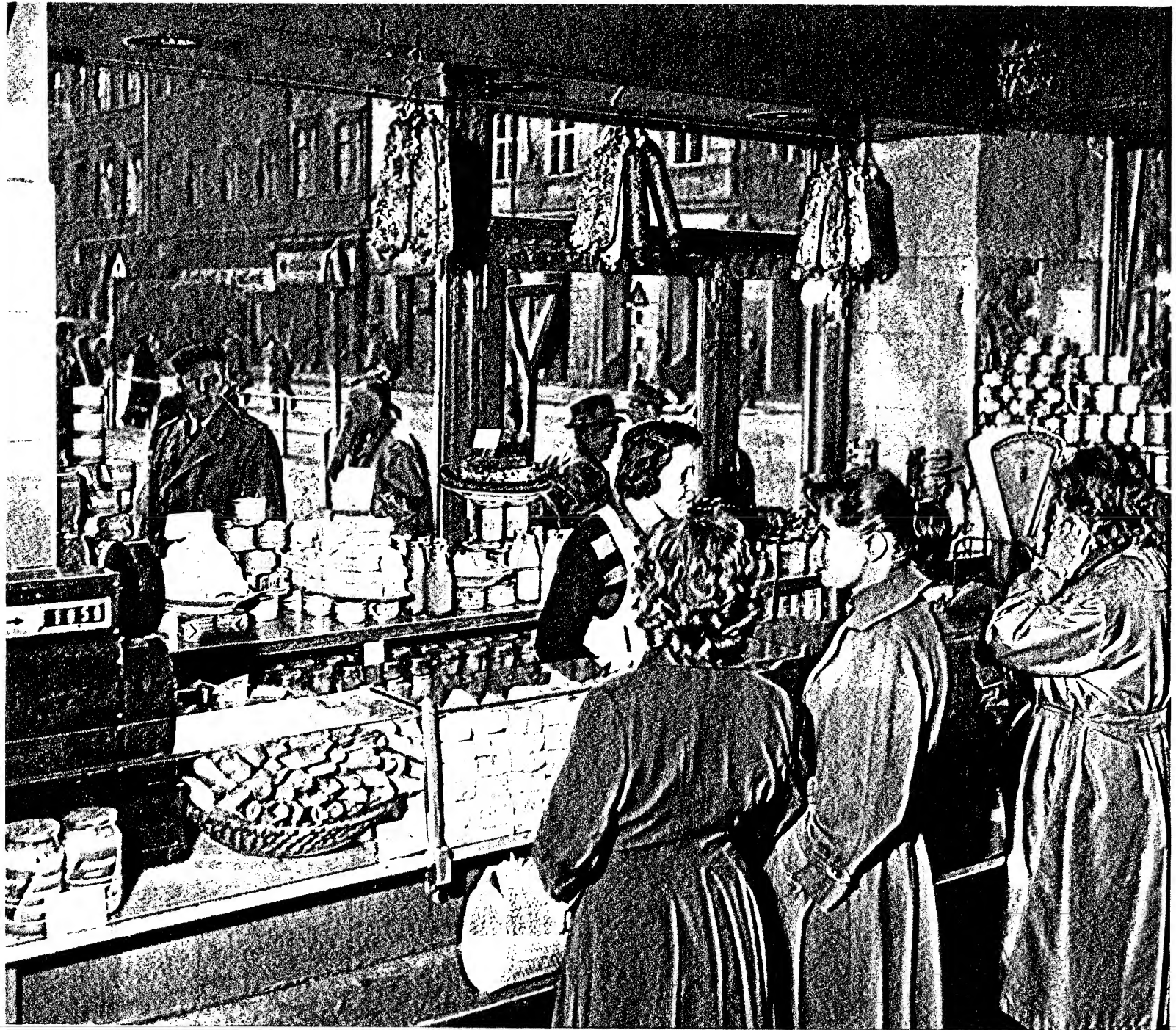
The carefree hunter







Victims whom no one pities



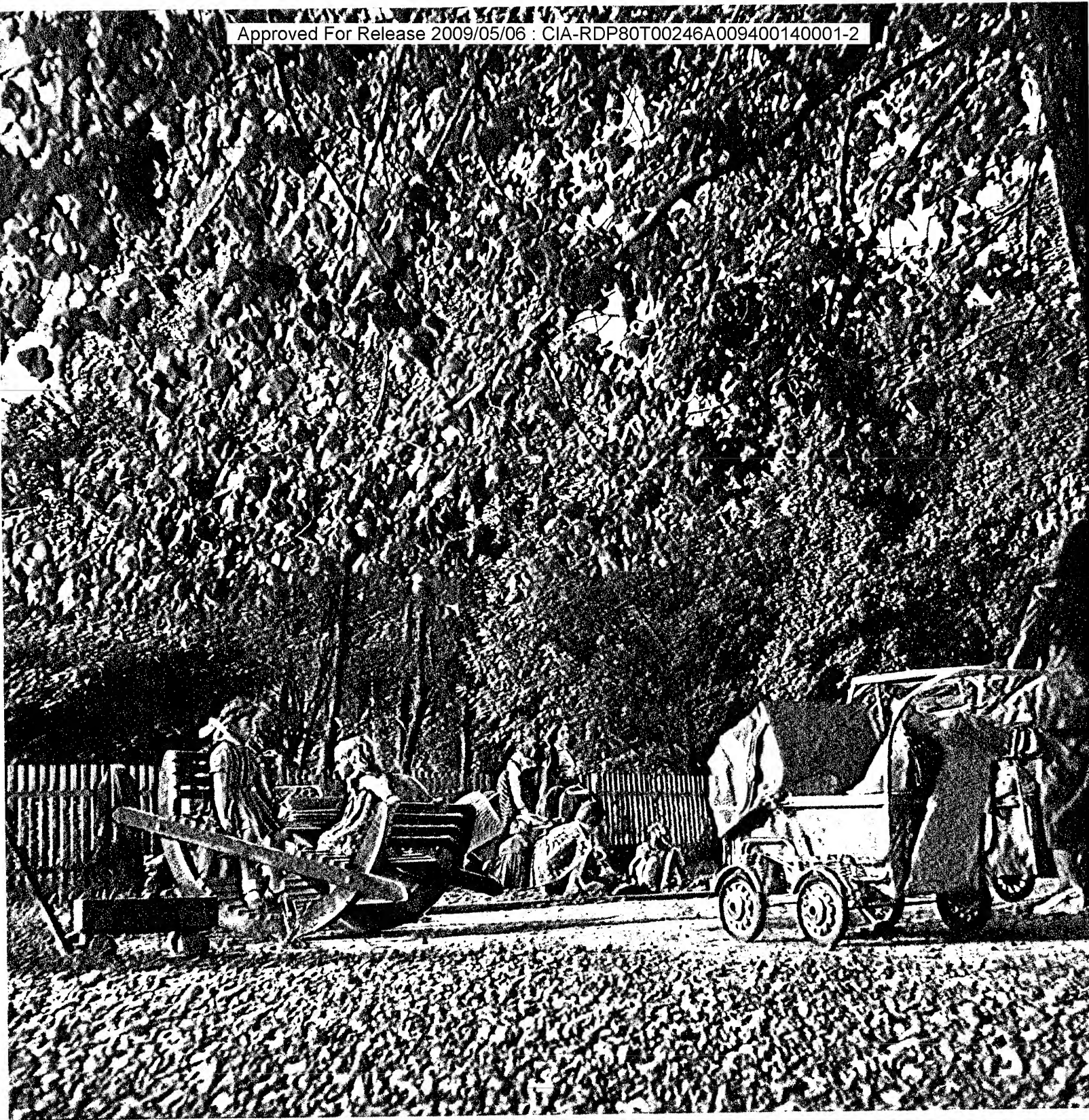




Where there's a child, there are smiles



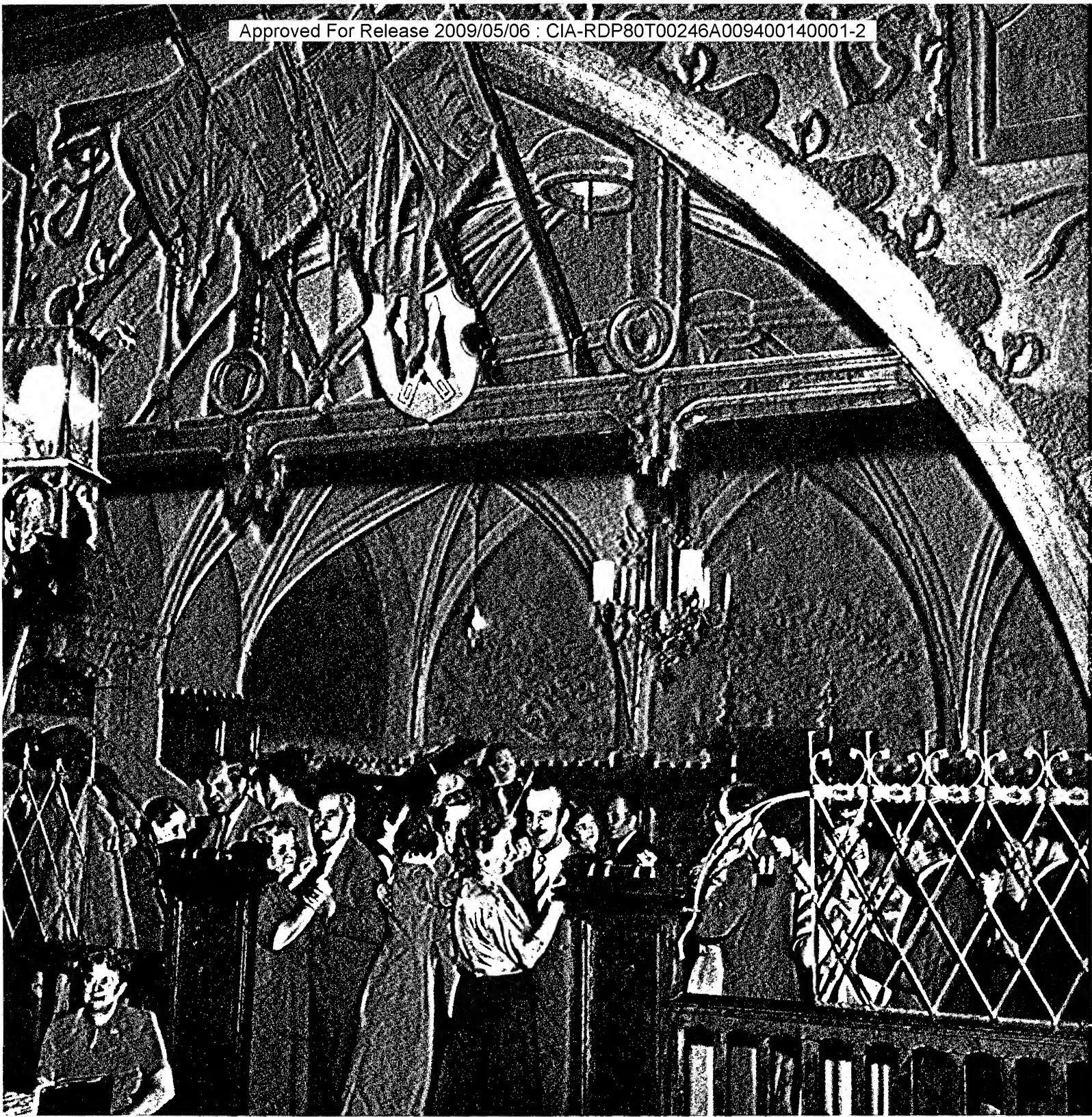




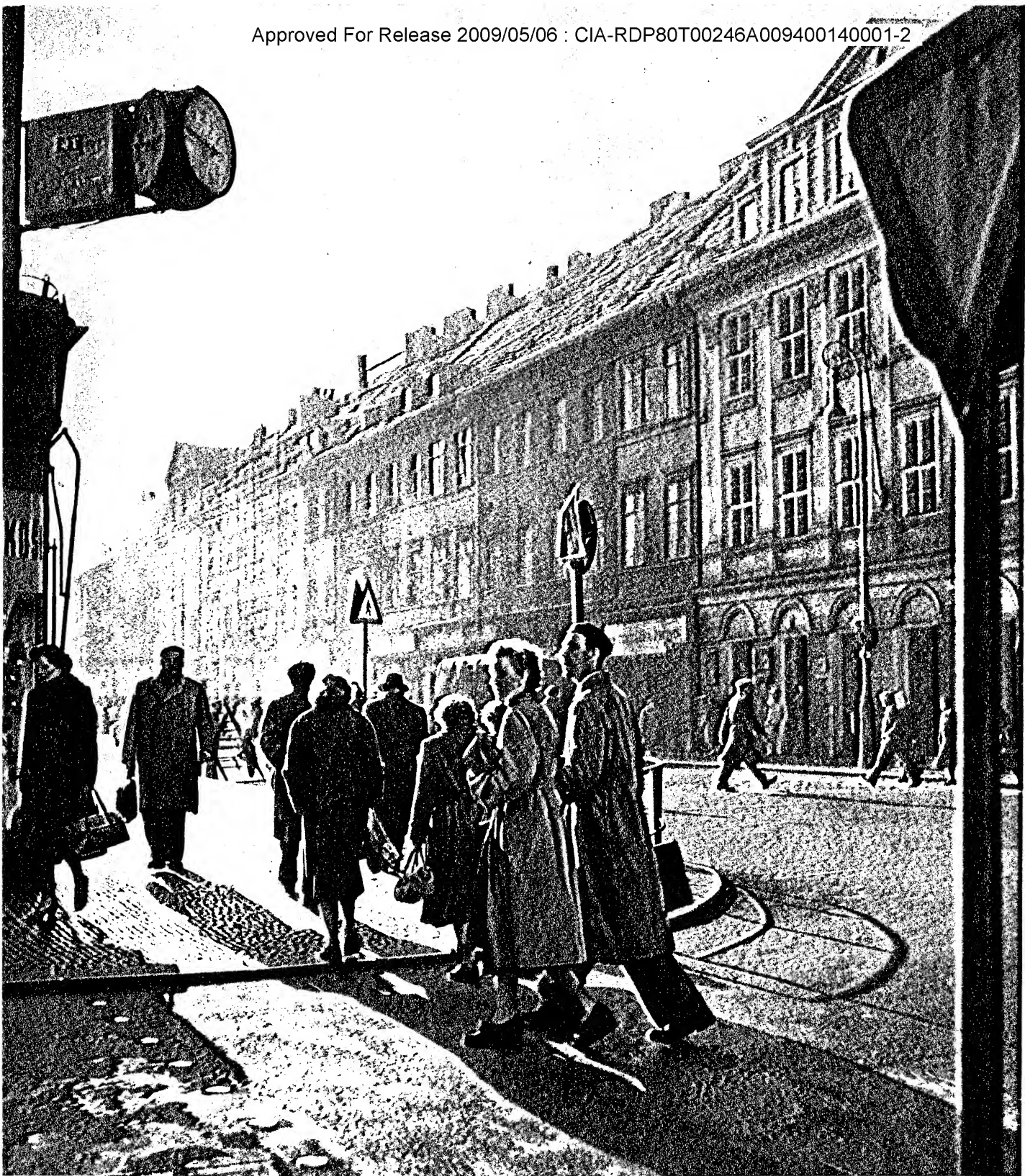
Children and trees belong to each other



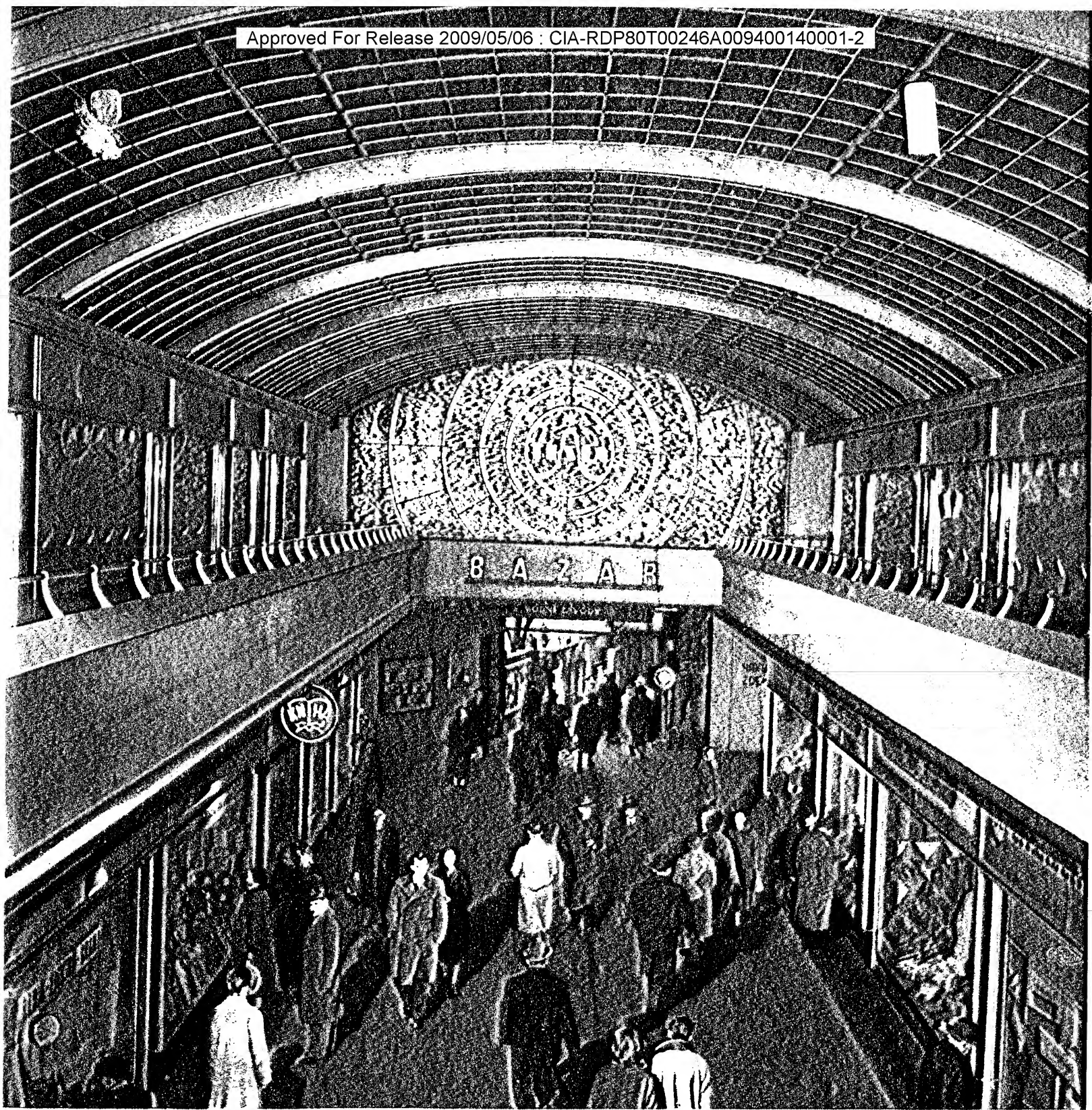




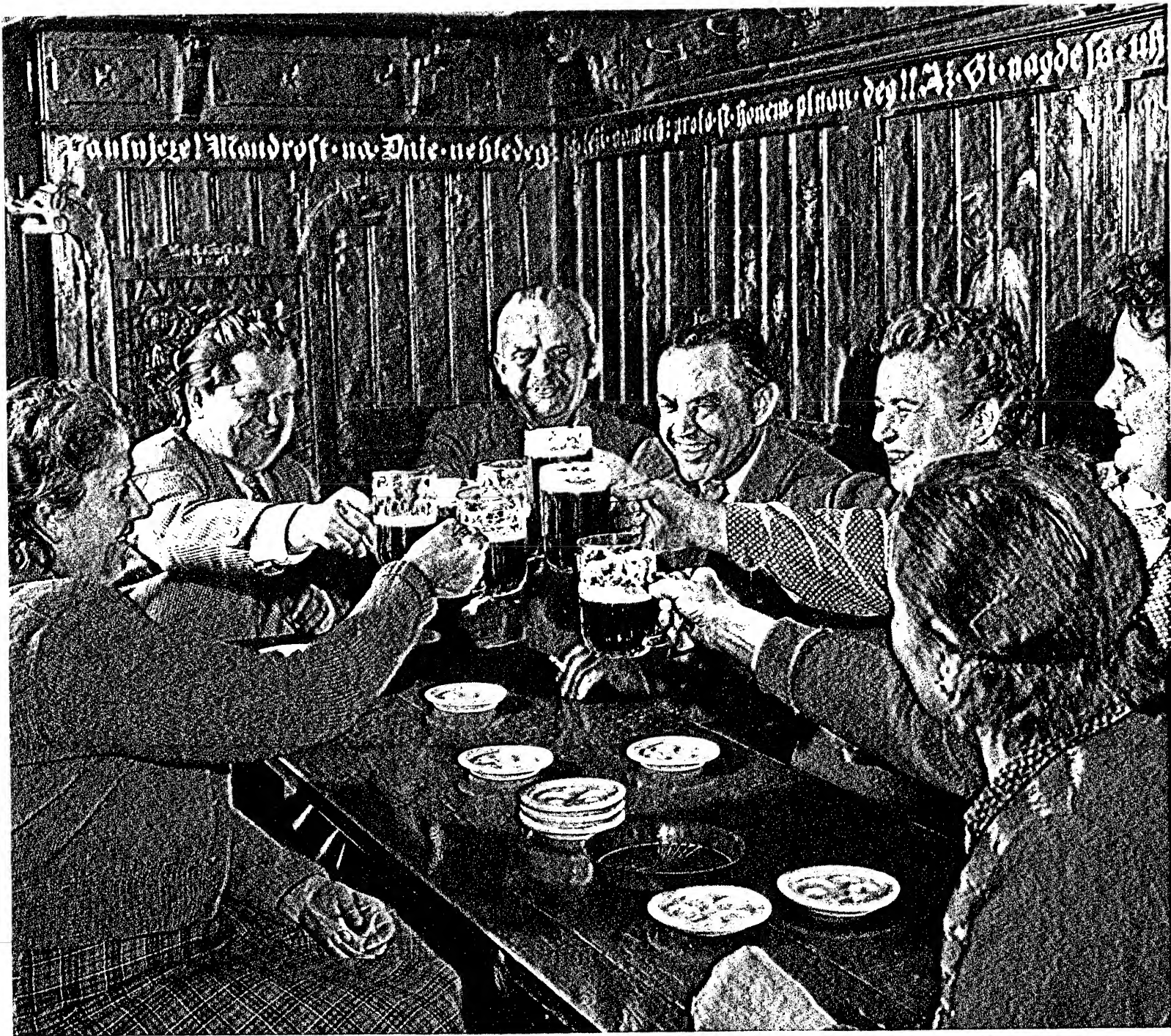
Wholehearted enjoyment







Less of a hurry



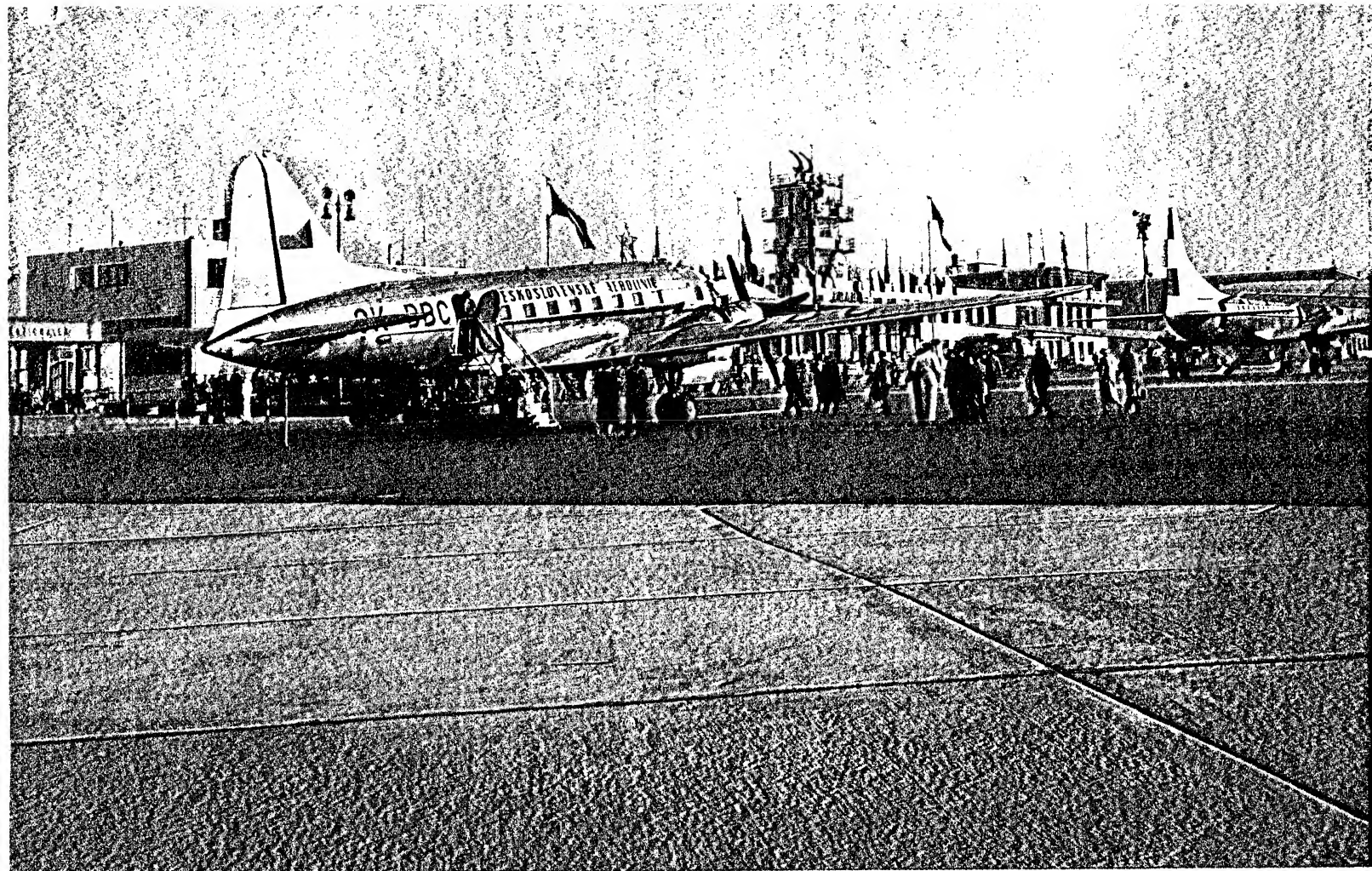




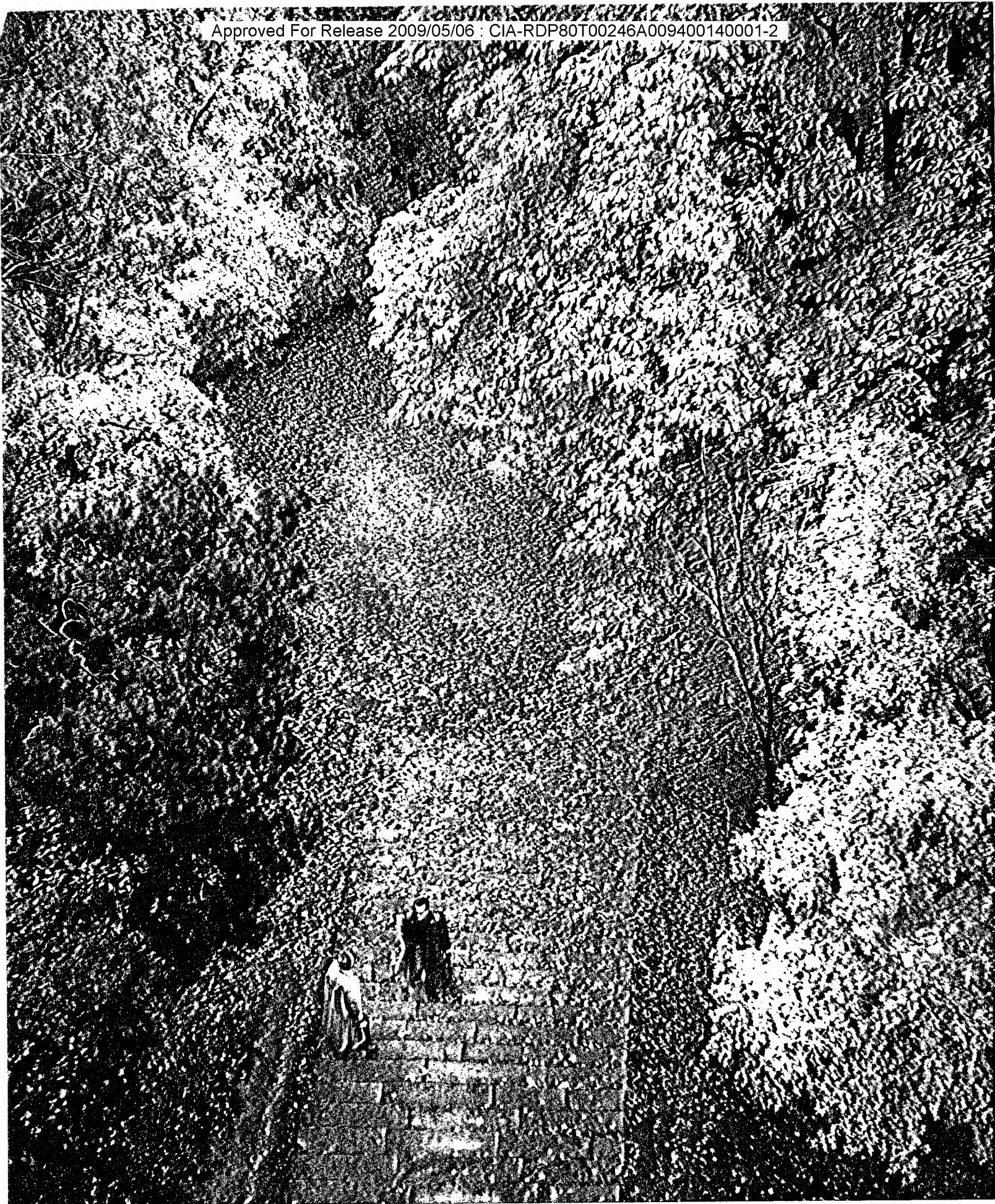
The sadness of the night



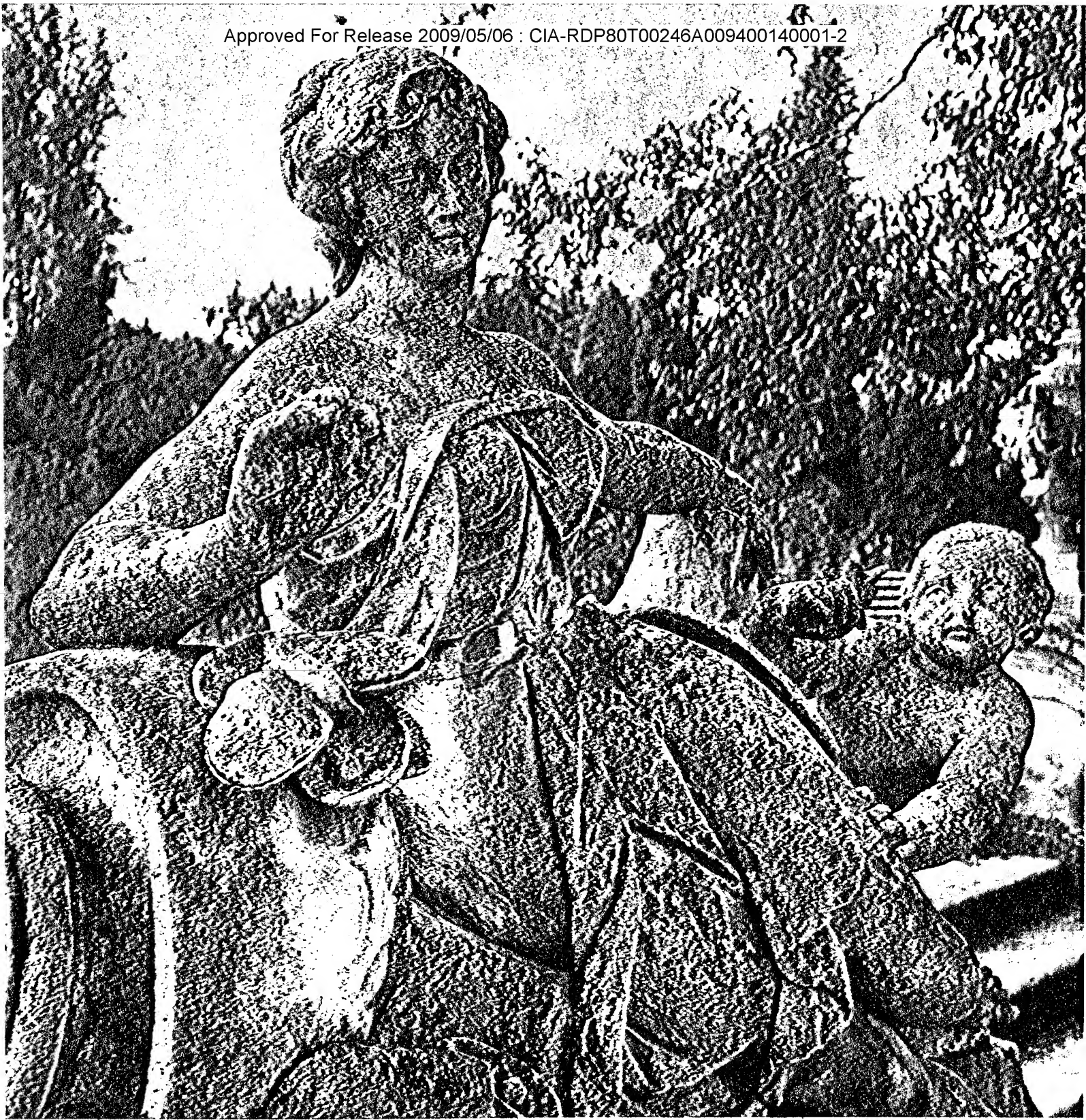




...than this flying giant







It is difficult to believe that they are of stone

165

◀ Autumn, the producer, seeks his Romeo and Juliet



The humility of the Gothic

166

The excitement  
of the baroque ►

167



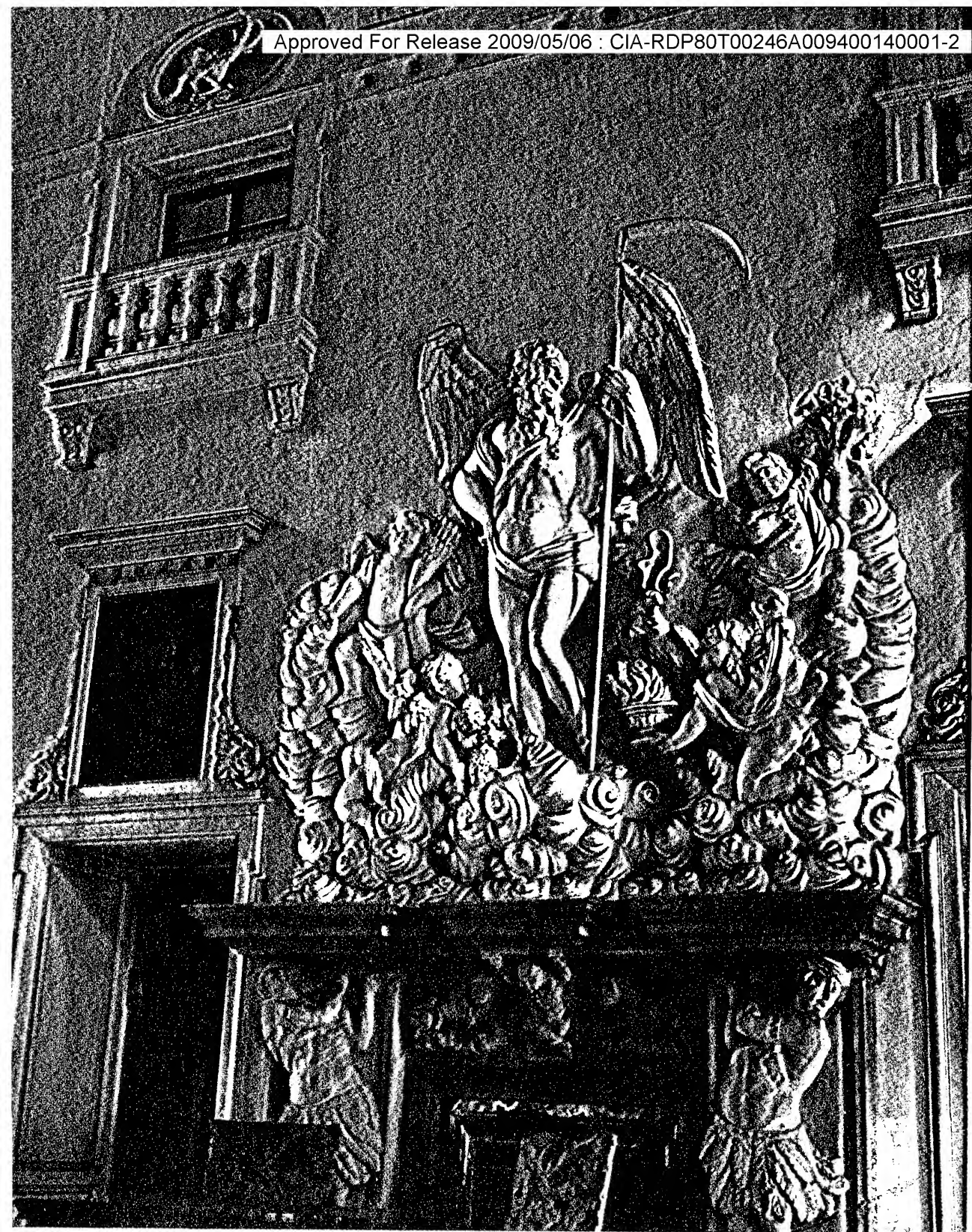




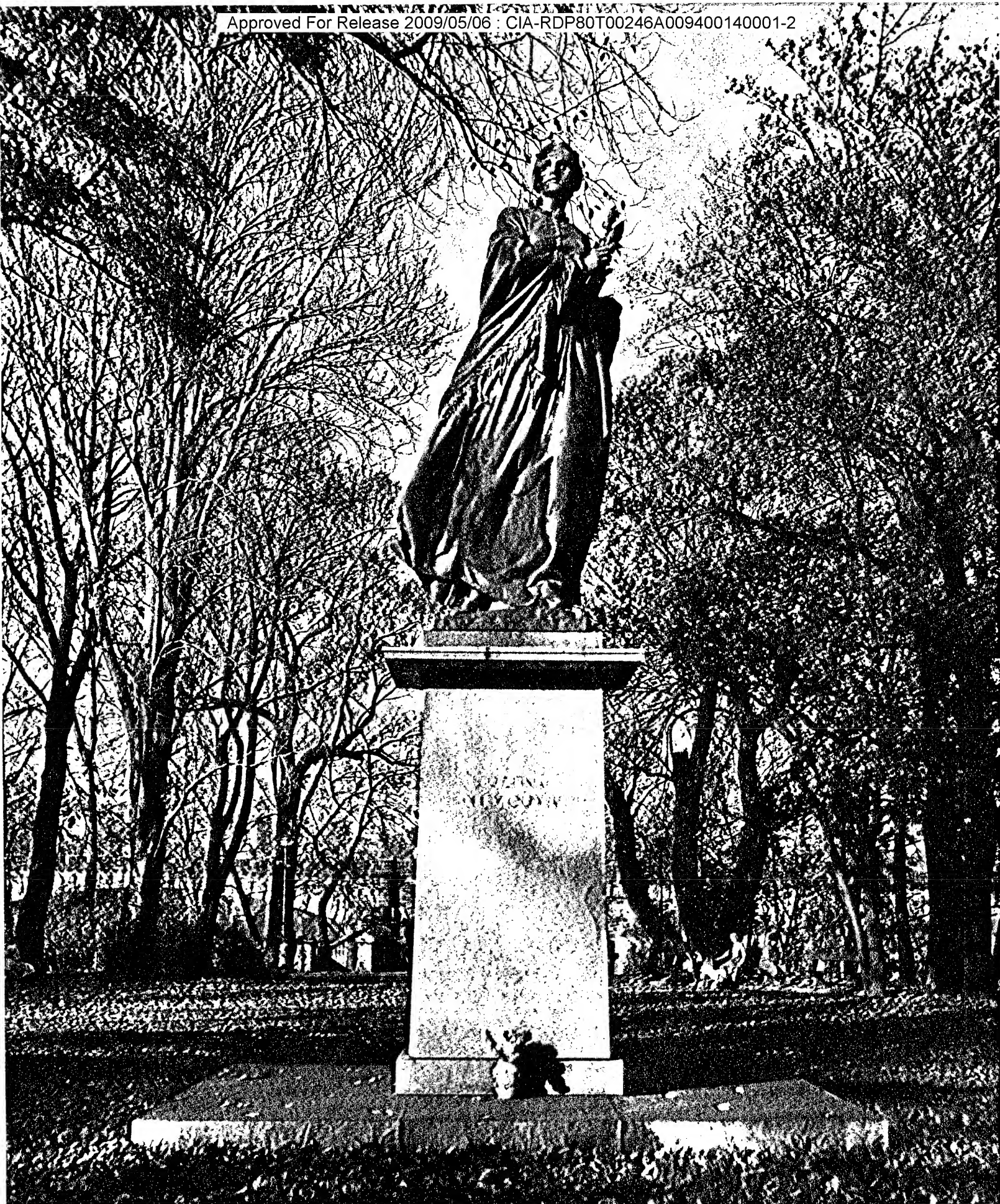


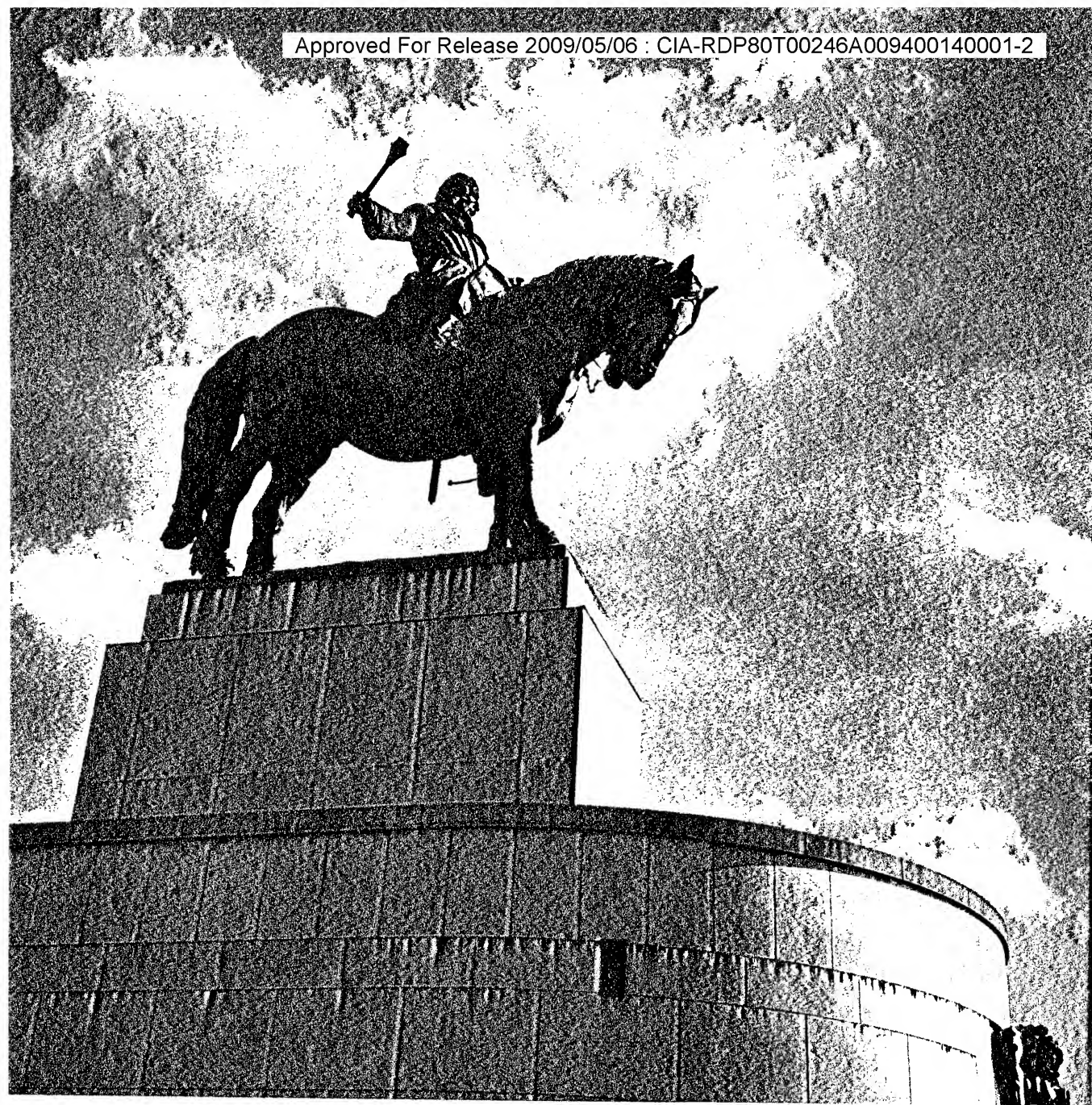


The pathos of stone

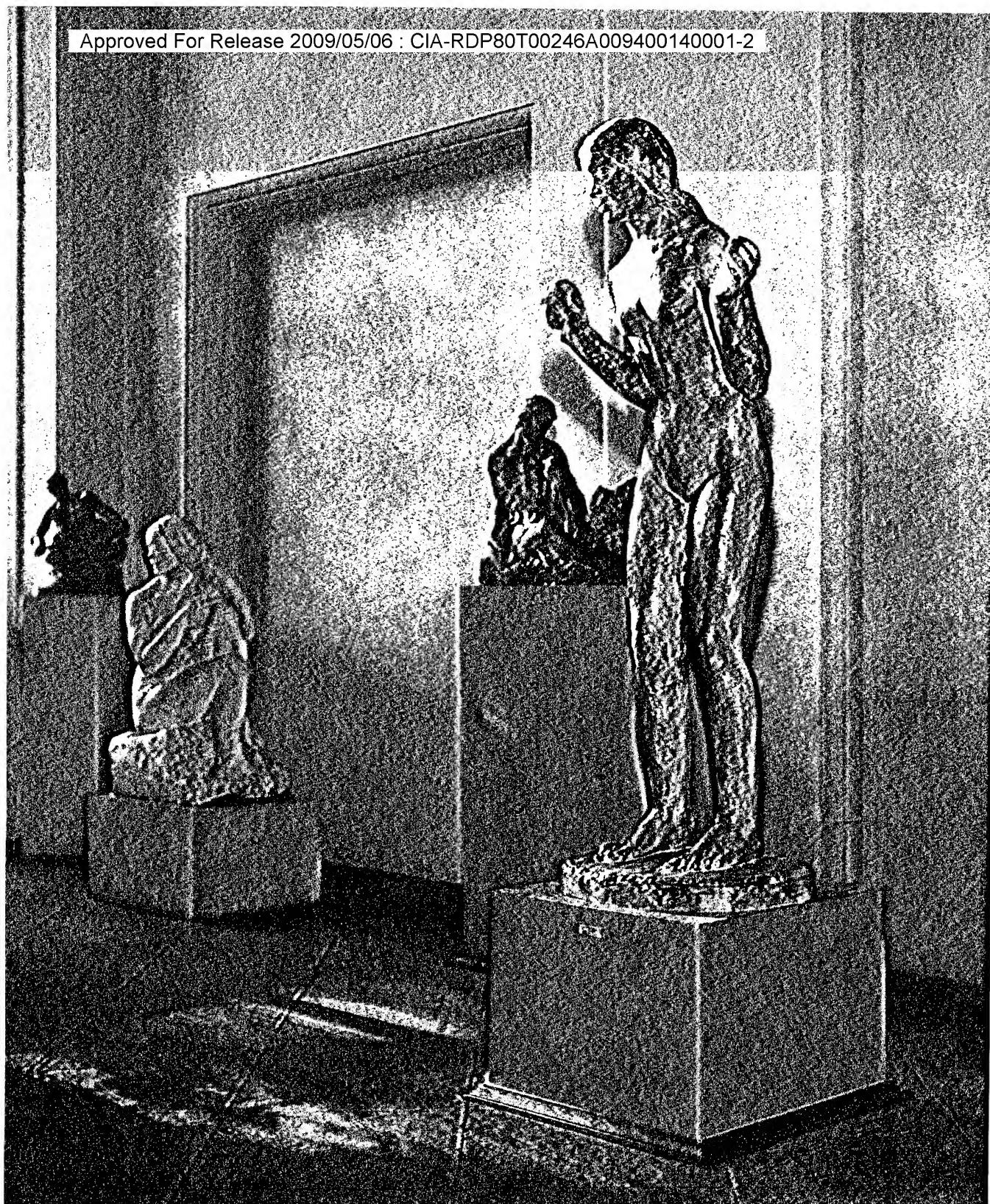




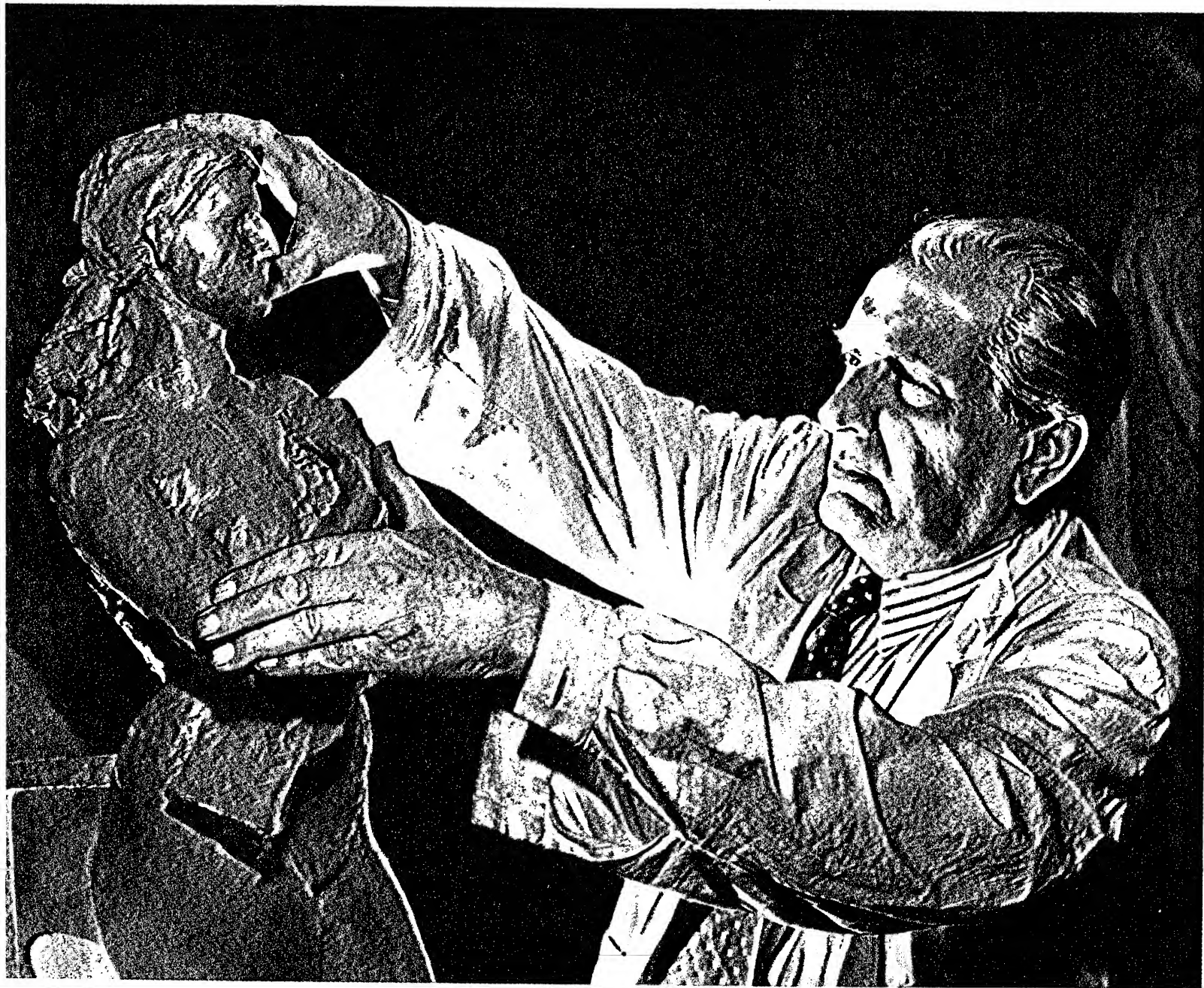




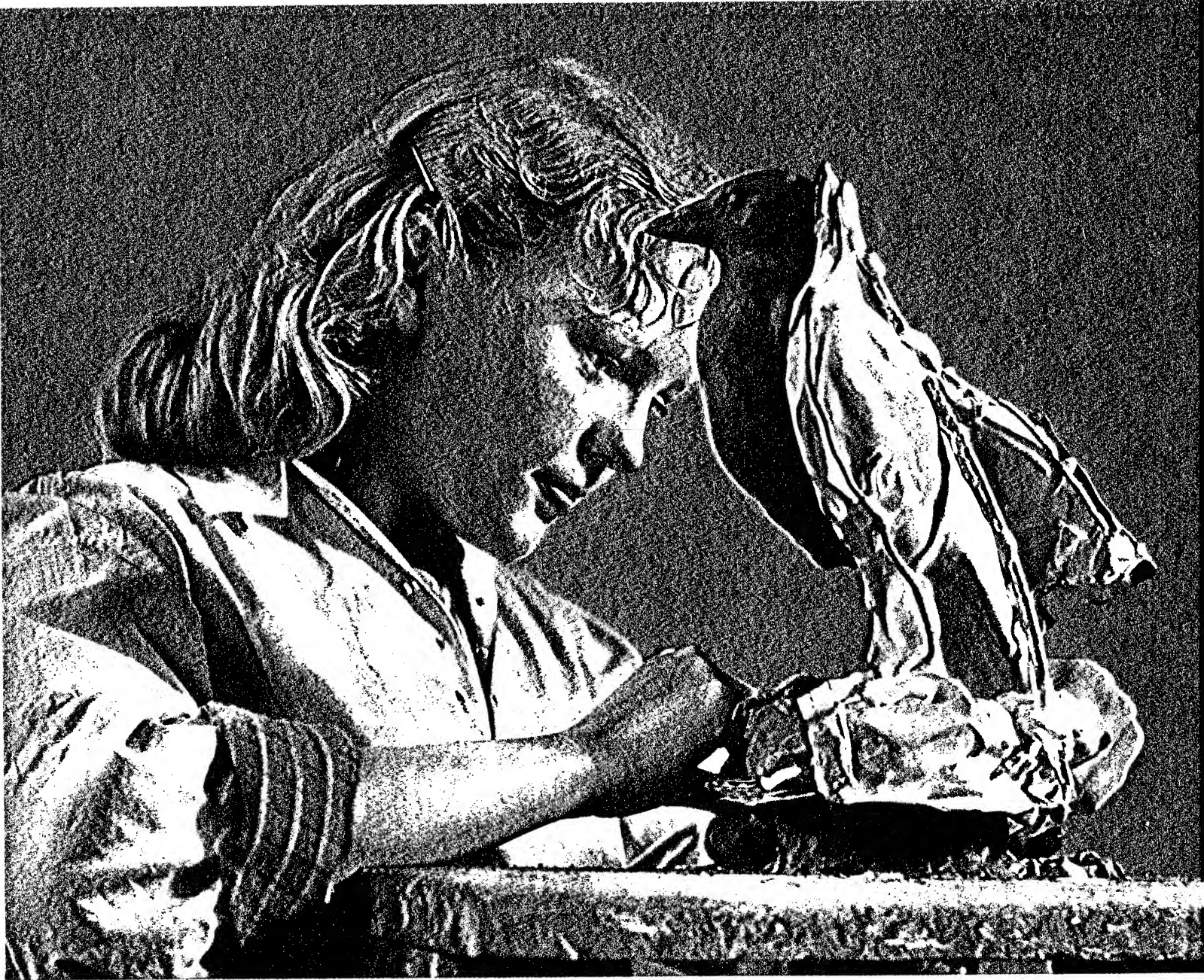




Tread softly as you pass



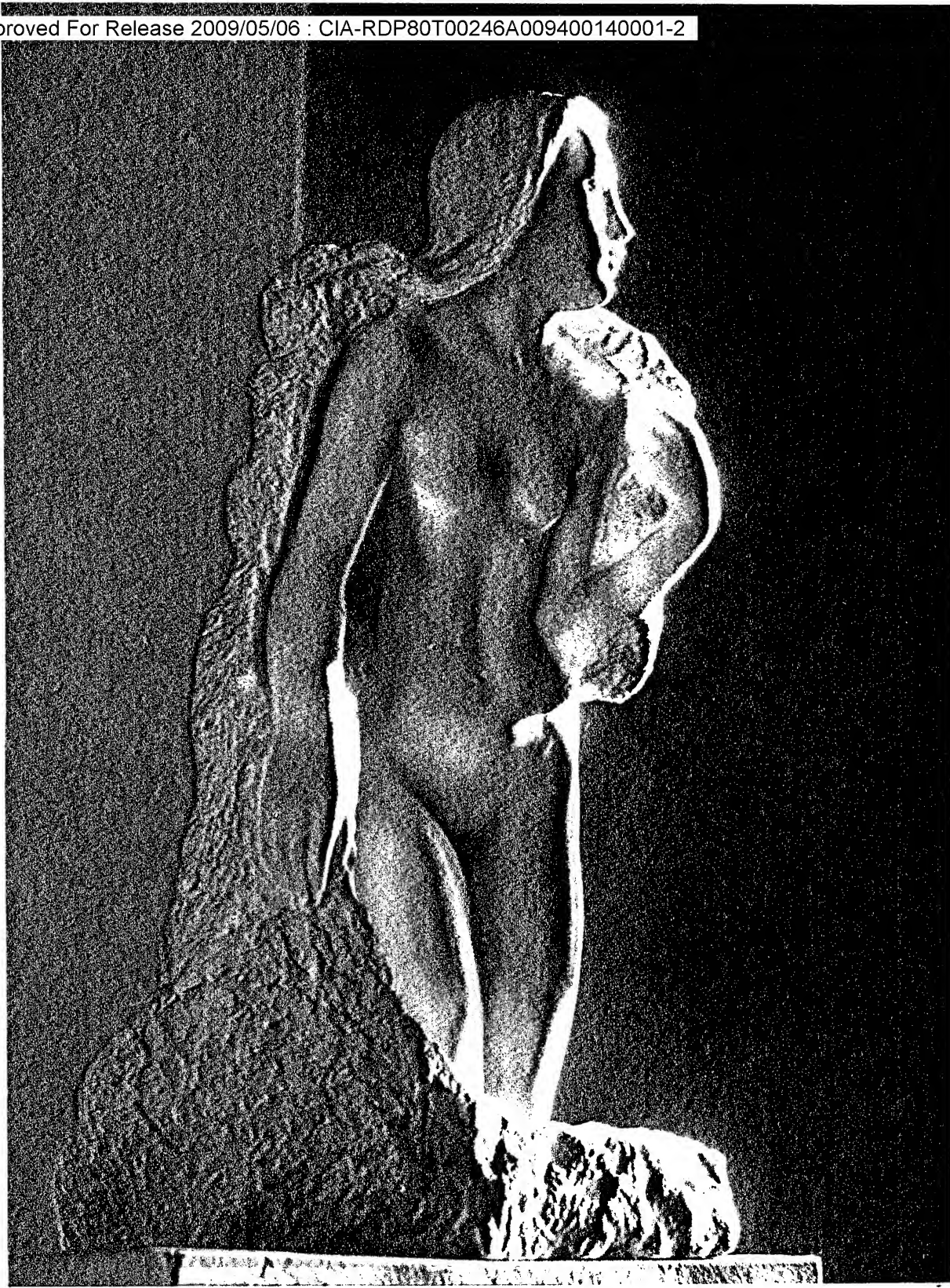




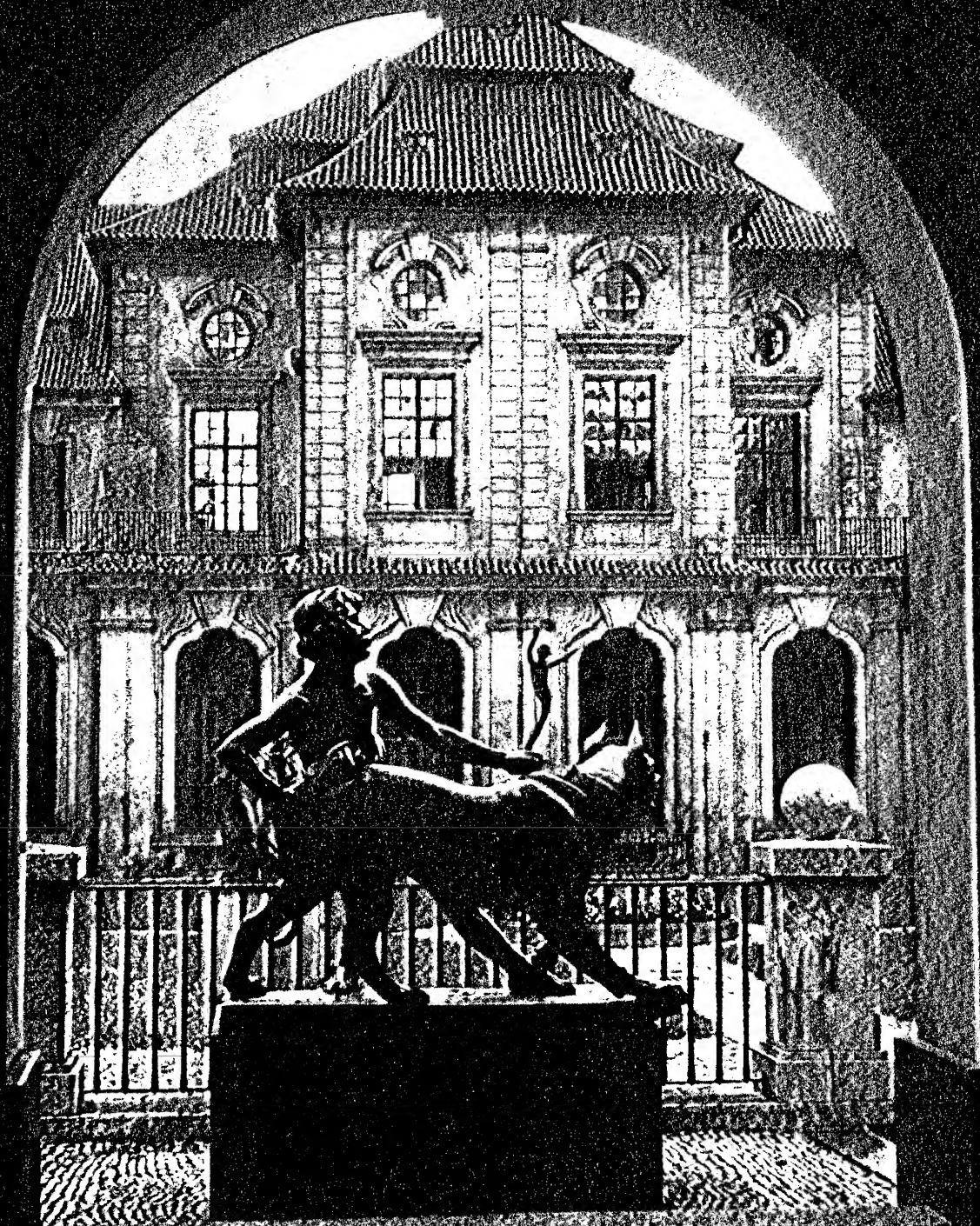
The work of a pupil



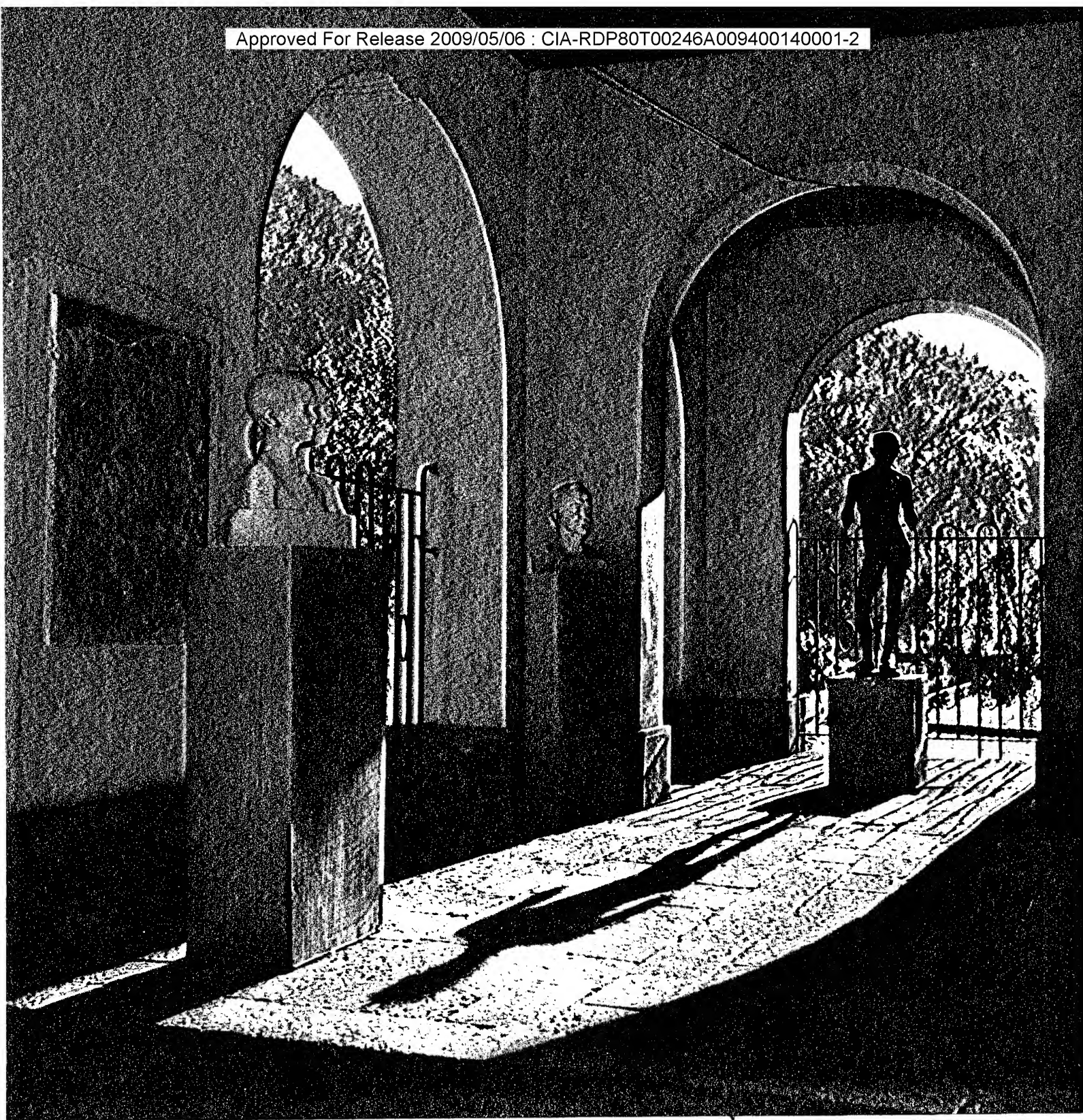




Risen from the foam?



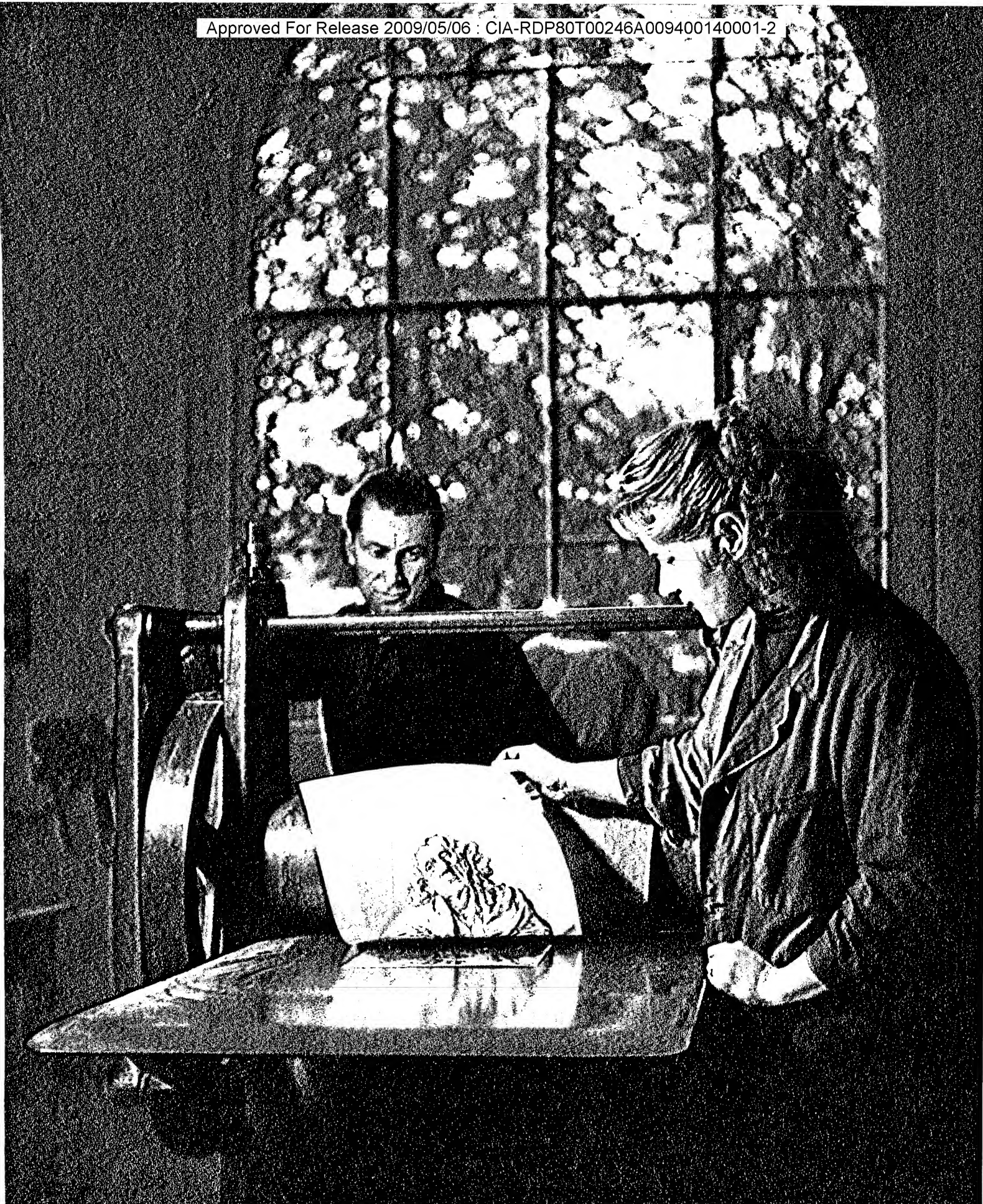




Where stone and bronze beauties meet

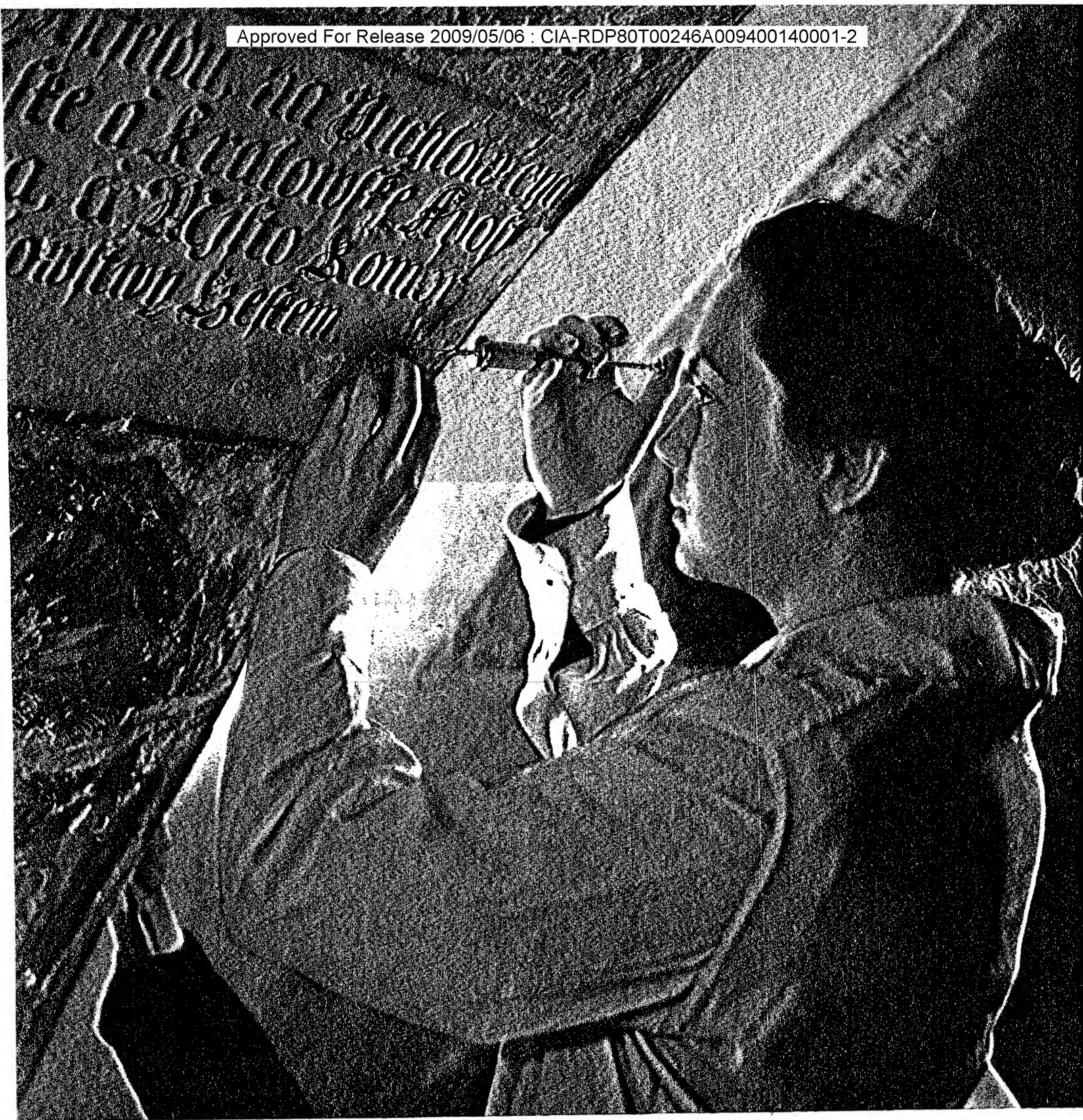








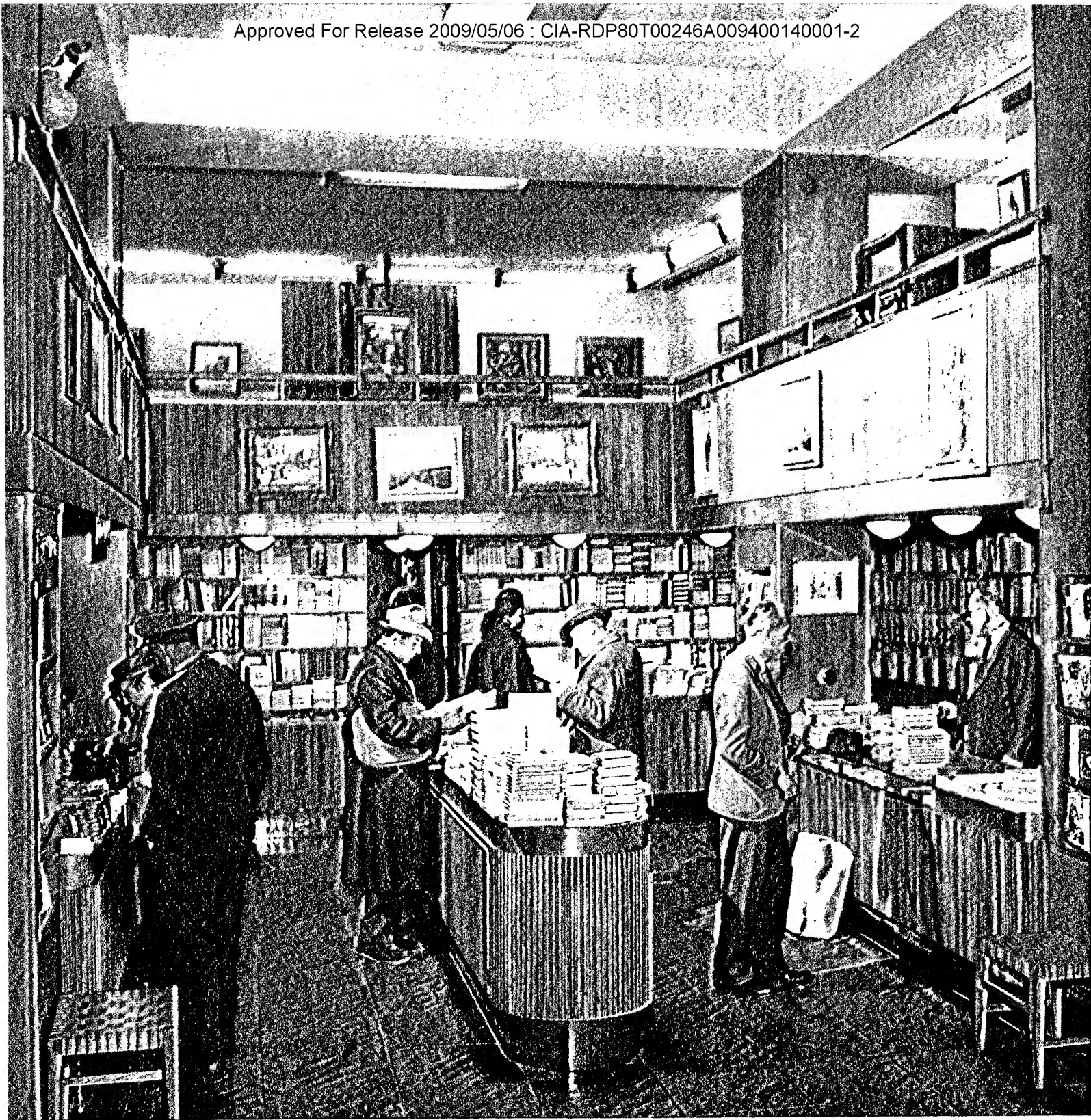




For future ages

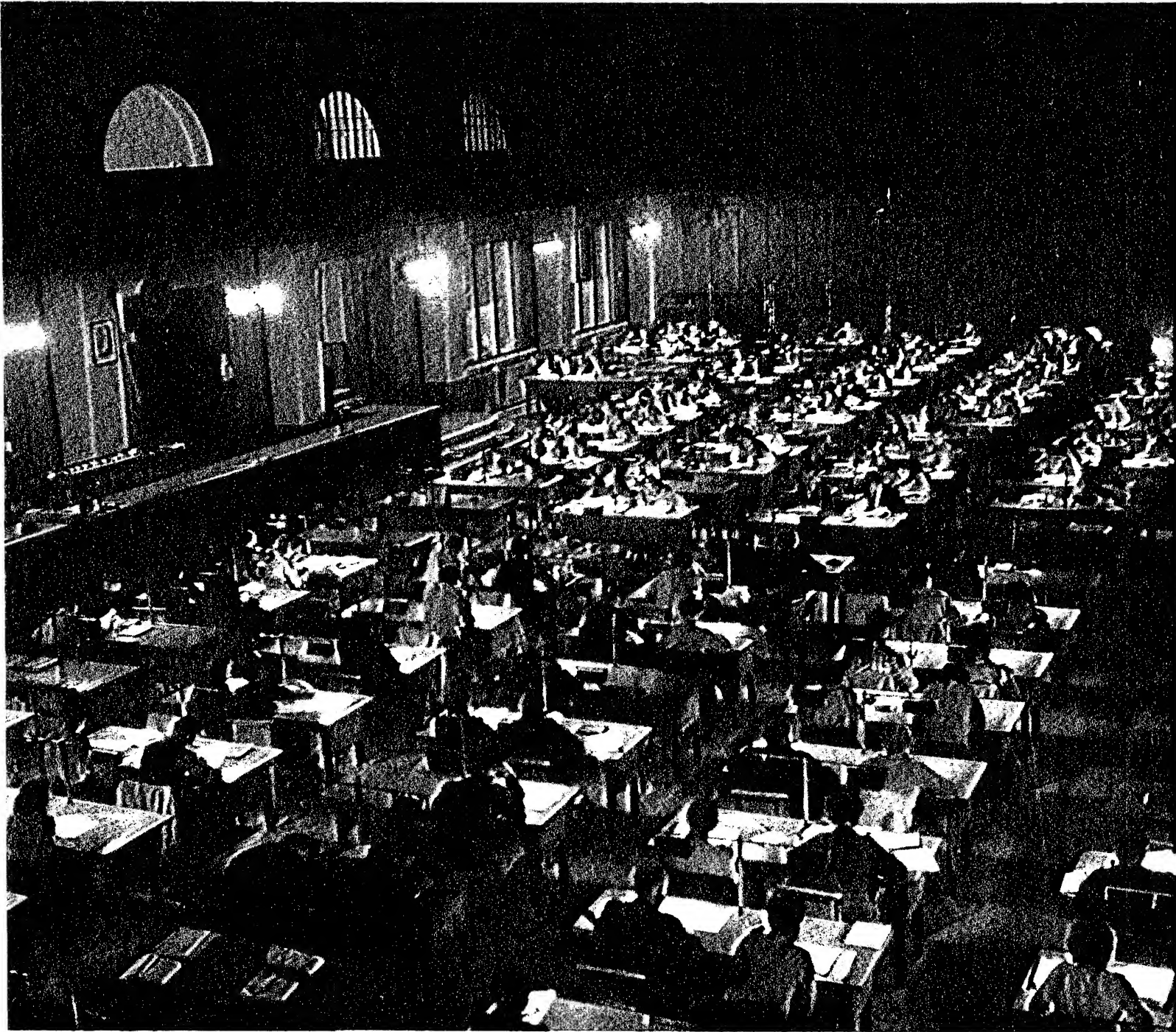




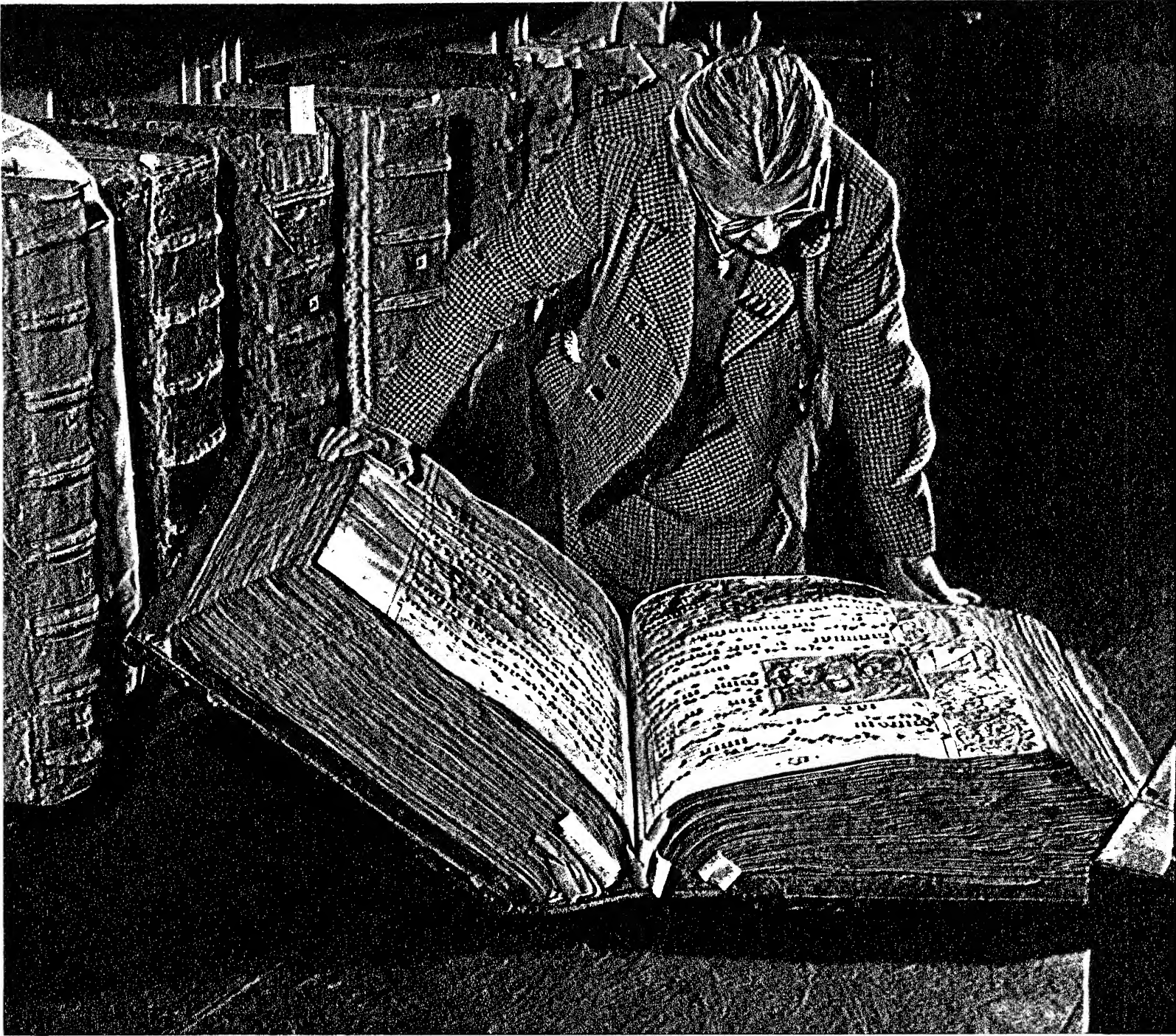


Which book is the most sought after?

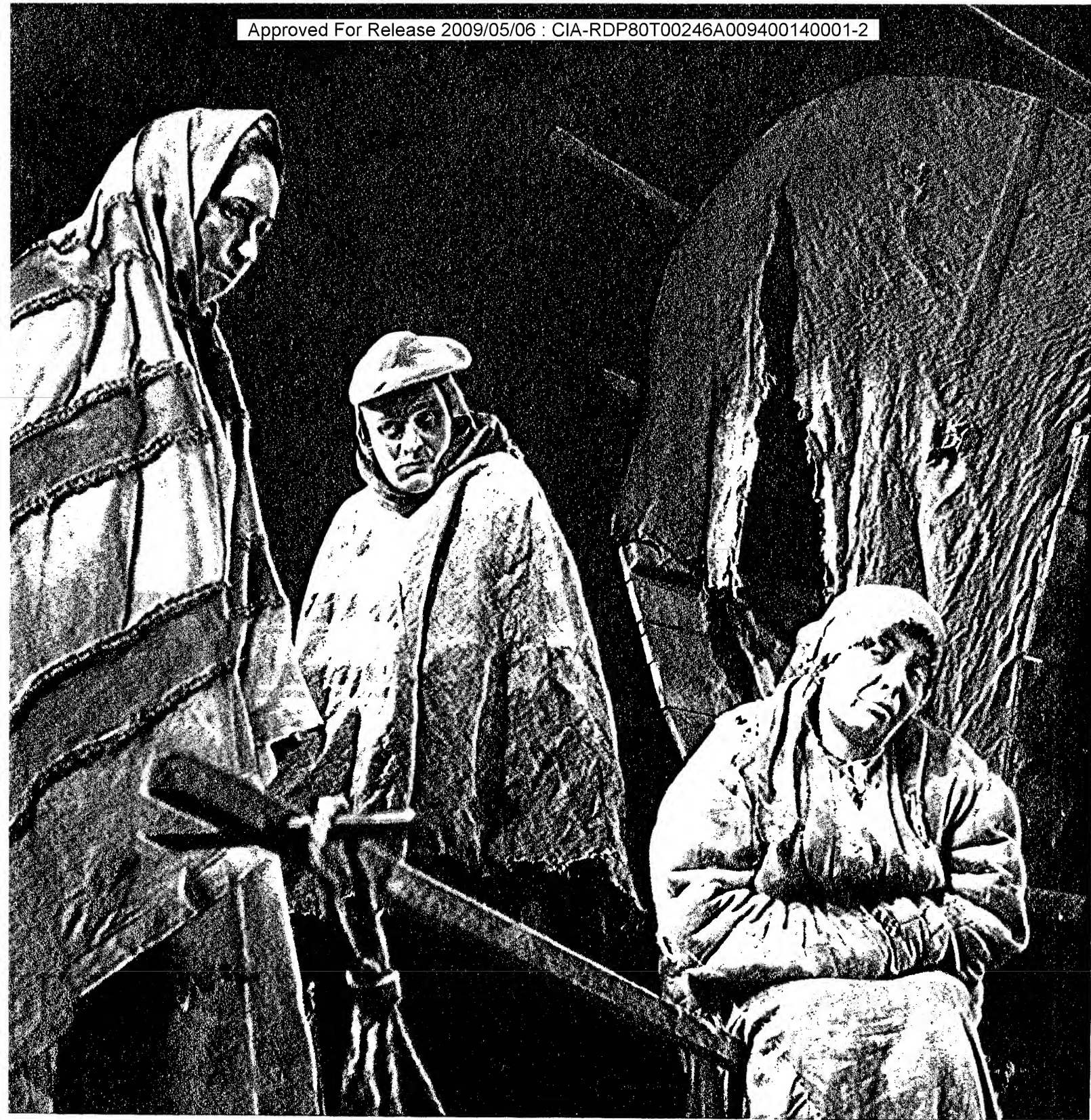
185







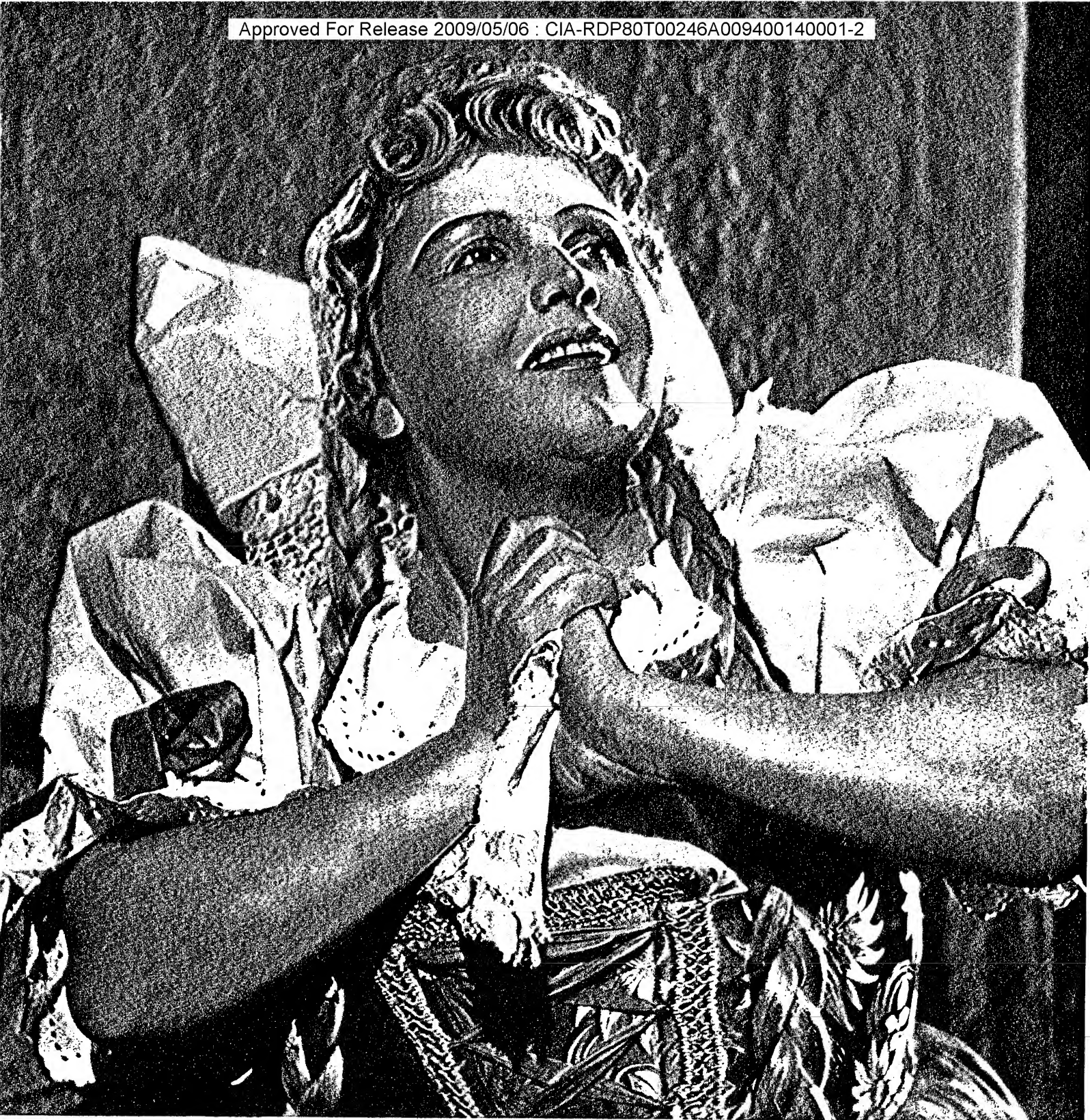
A book which exacts homage











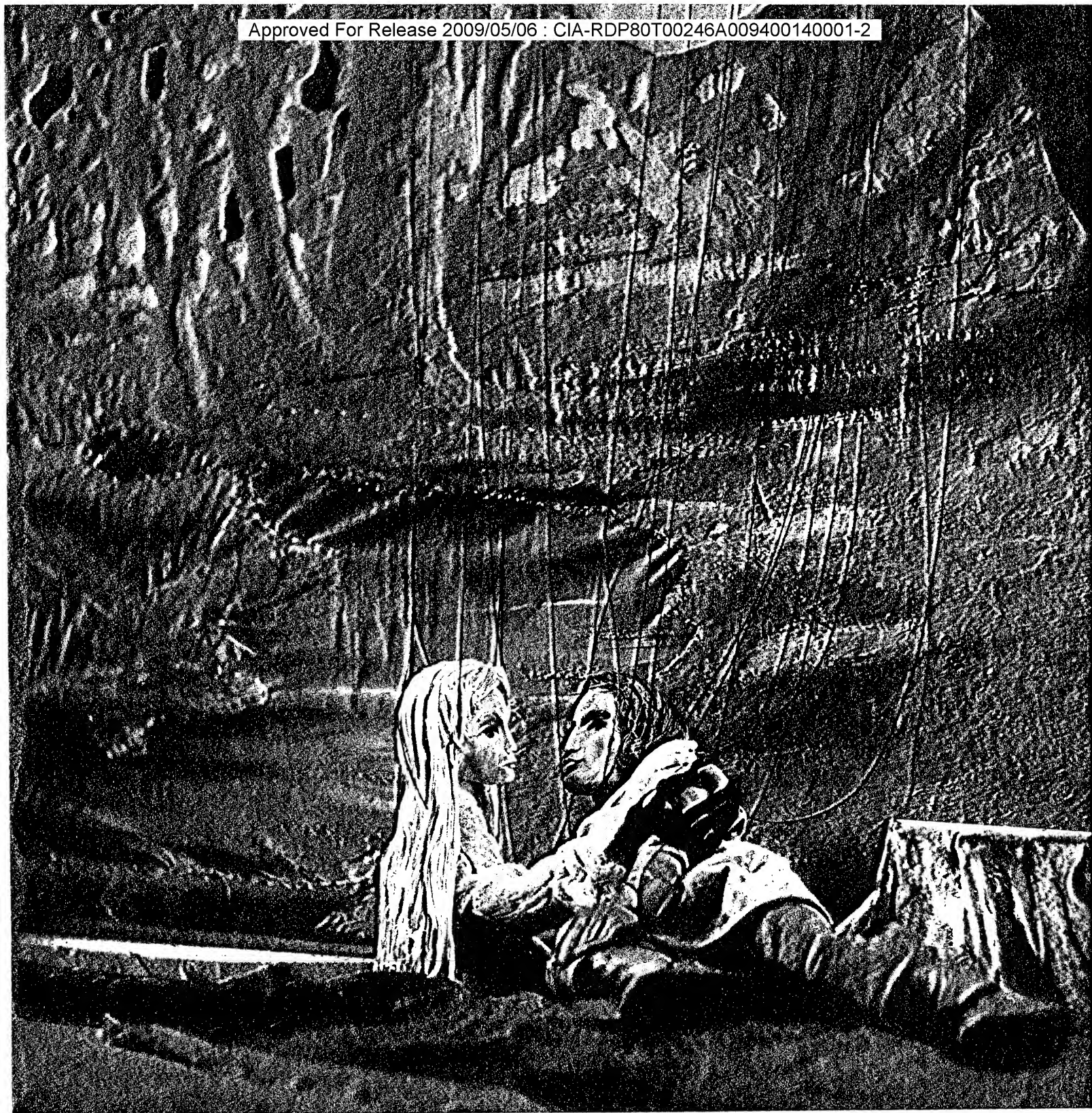




Conversation in gesture







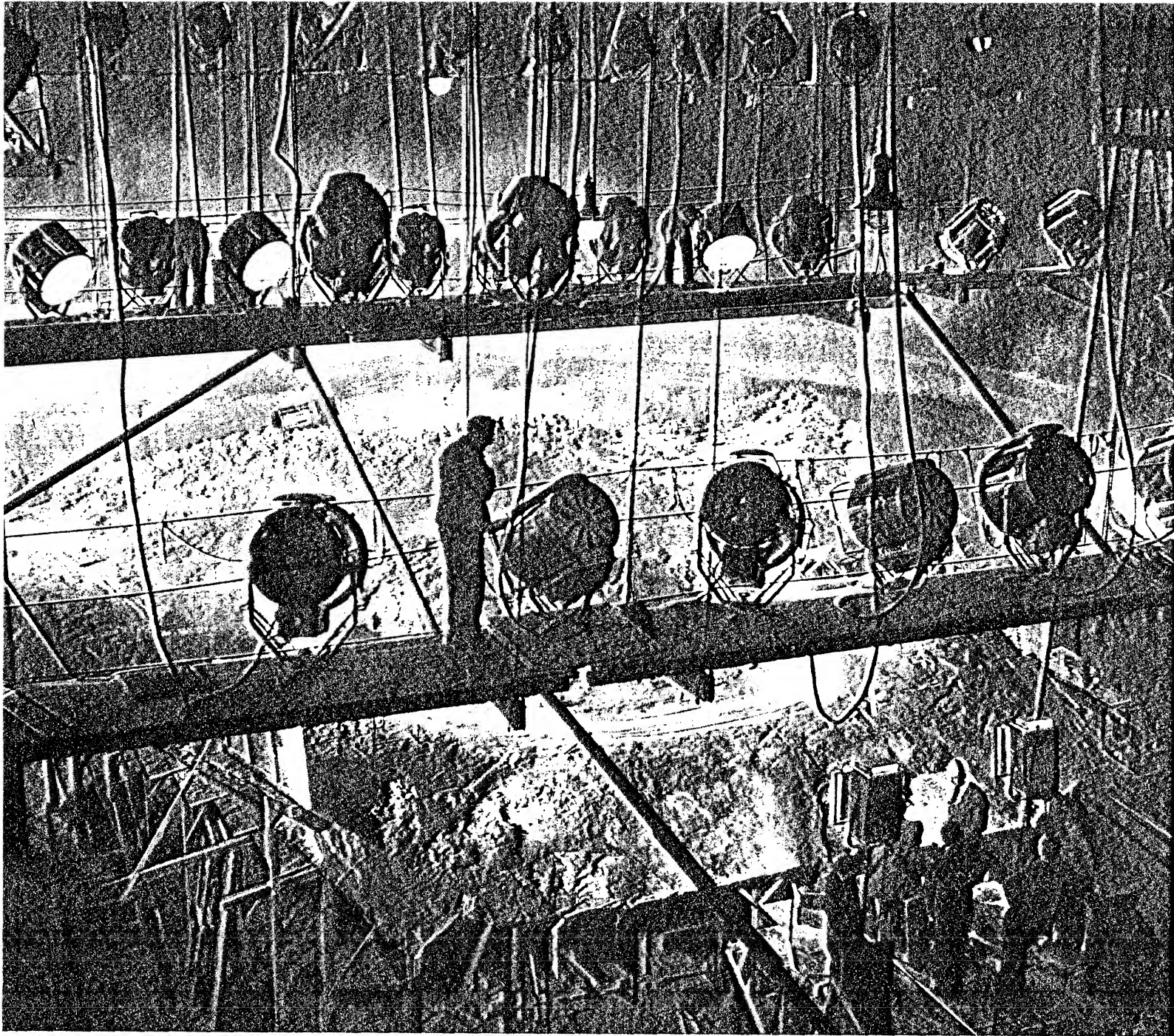
Puppet opera



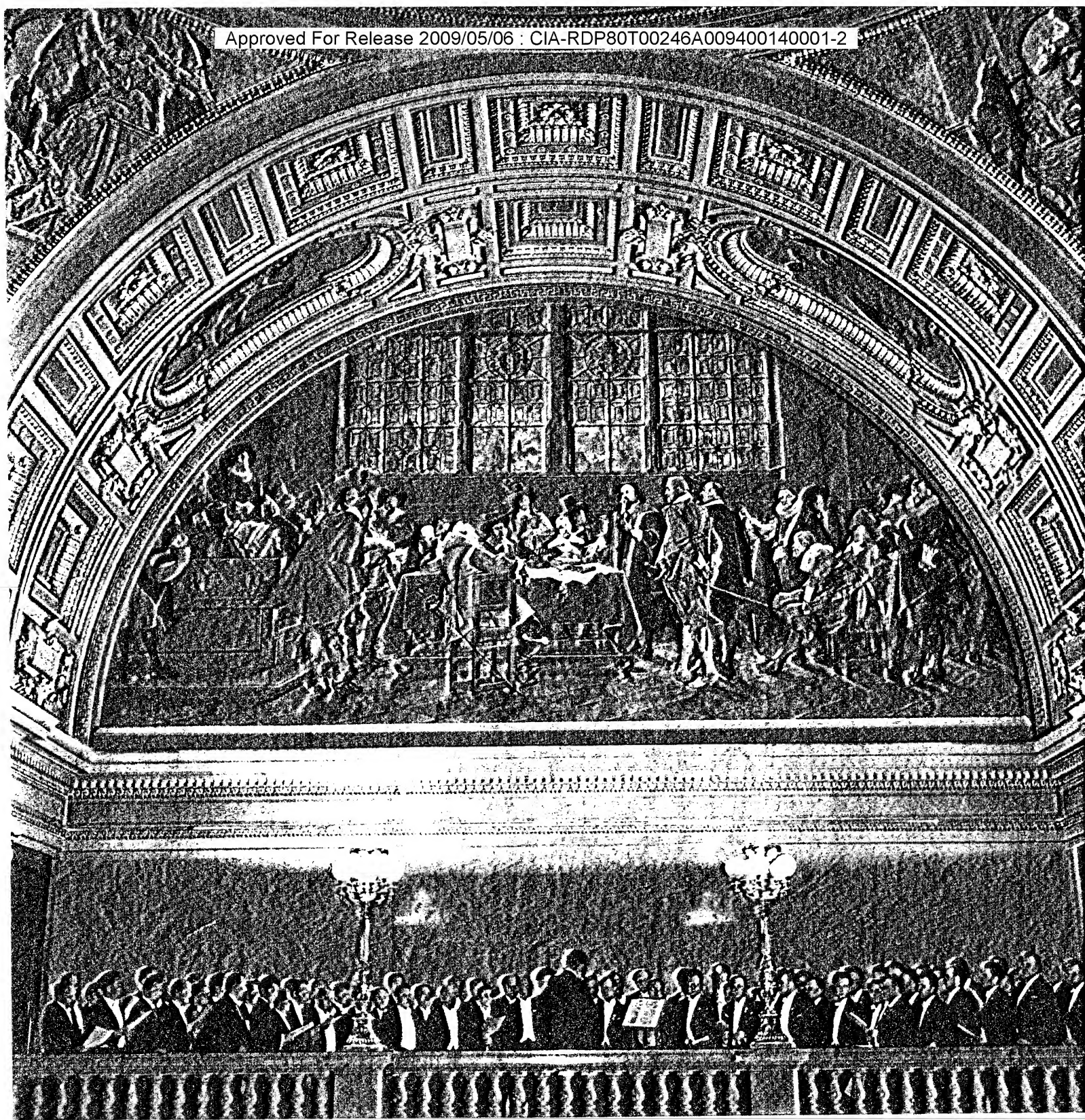








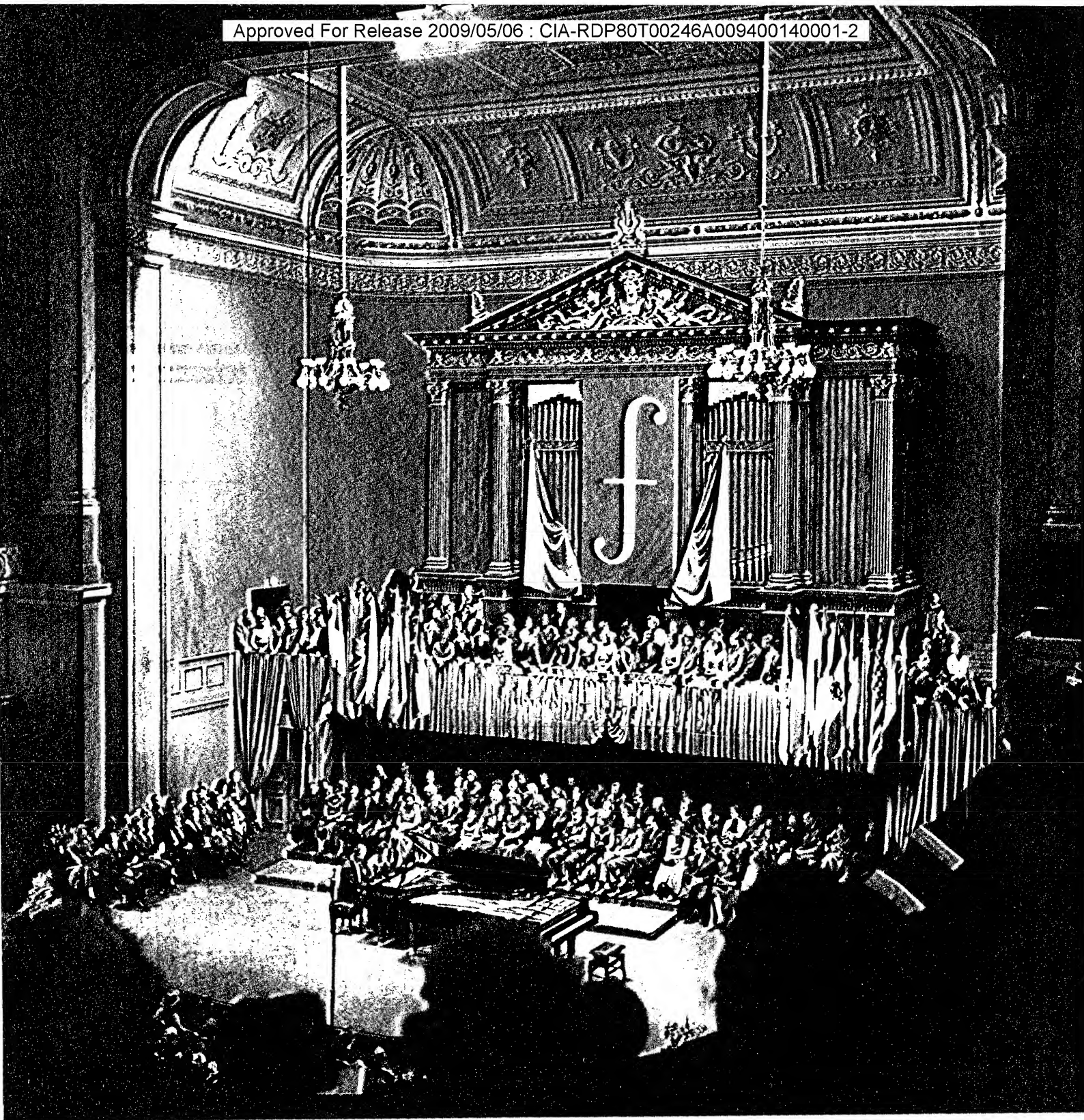




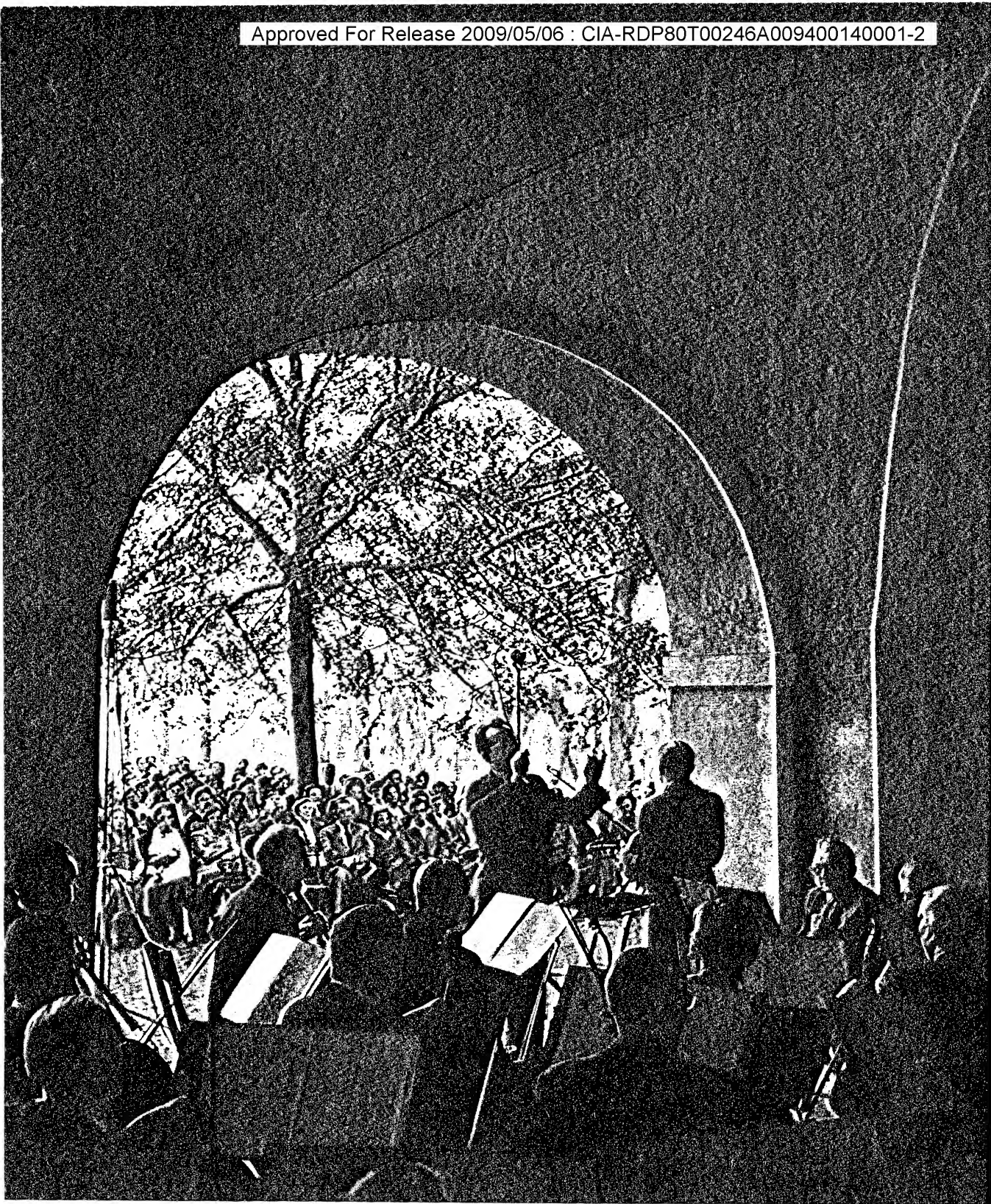
Two gatherings



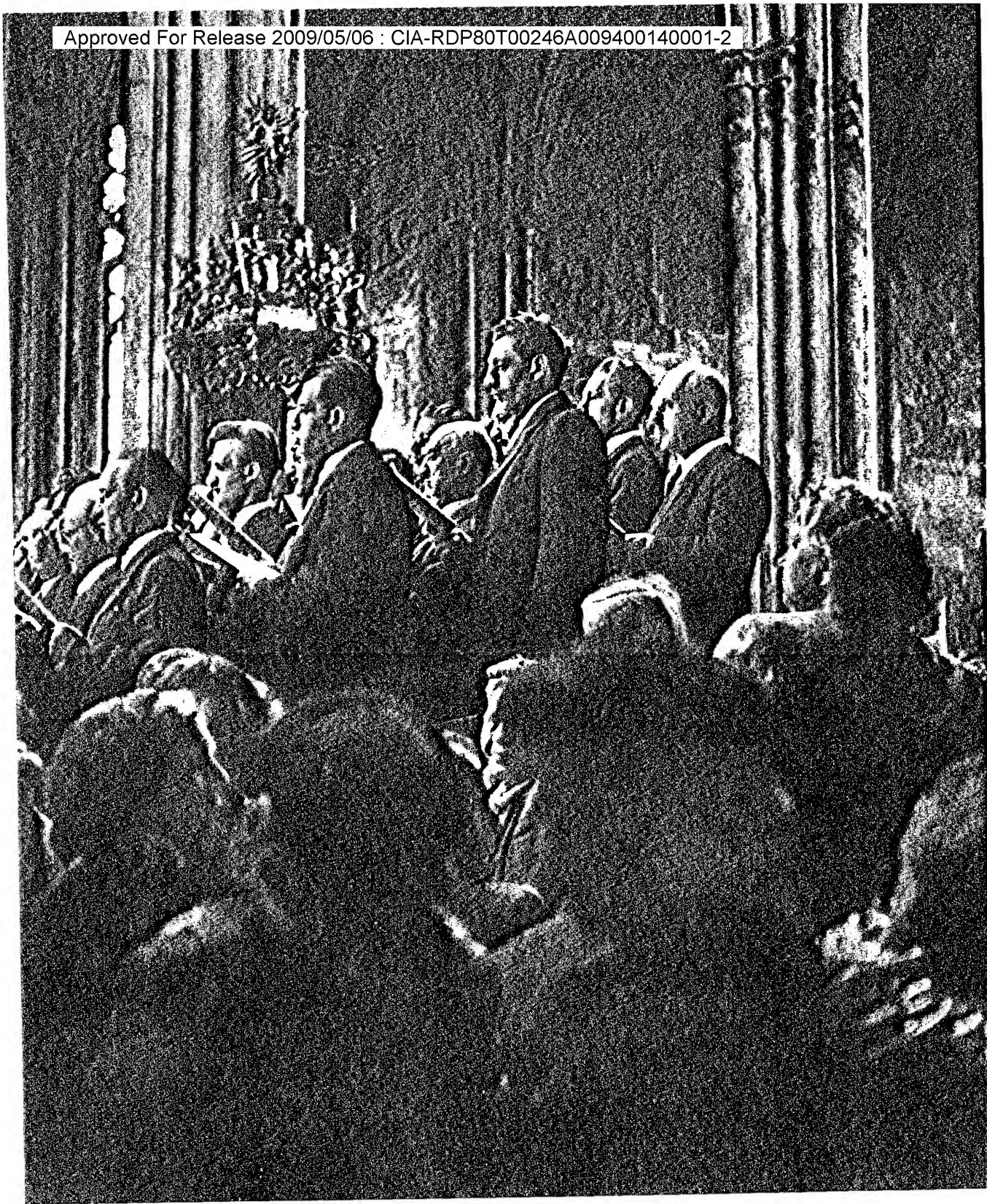




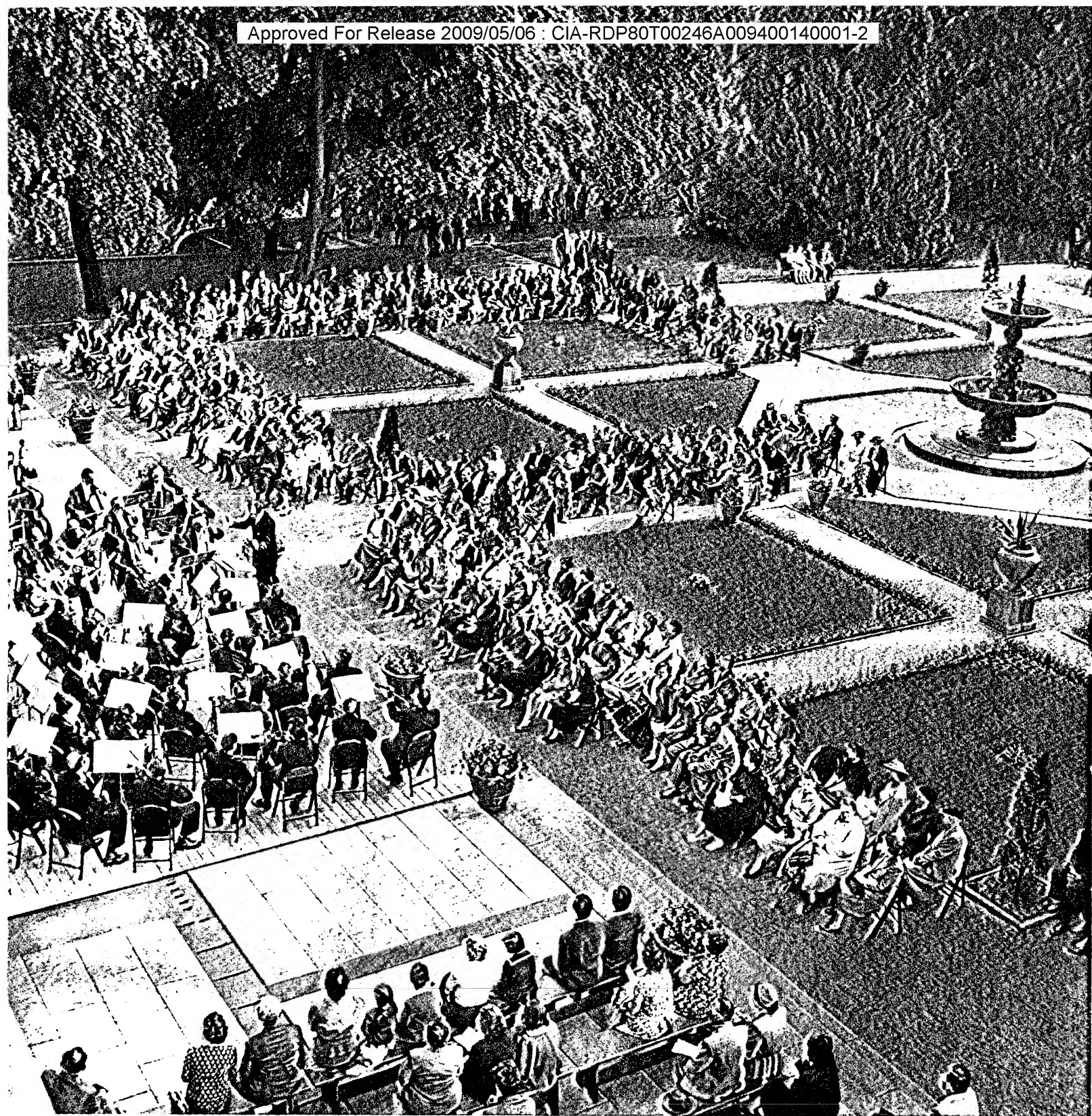
Sold out





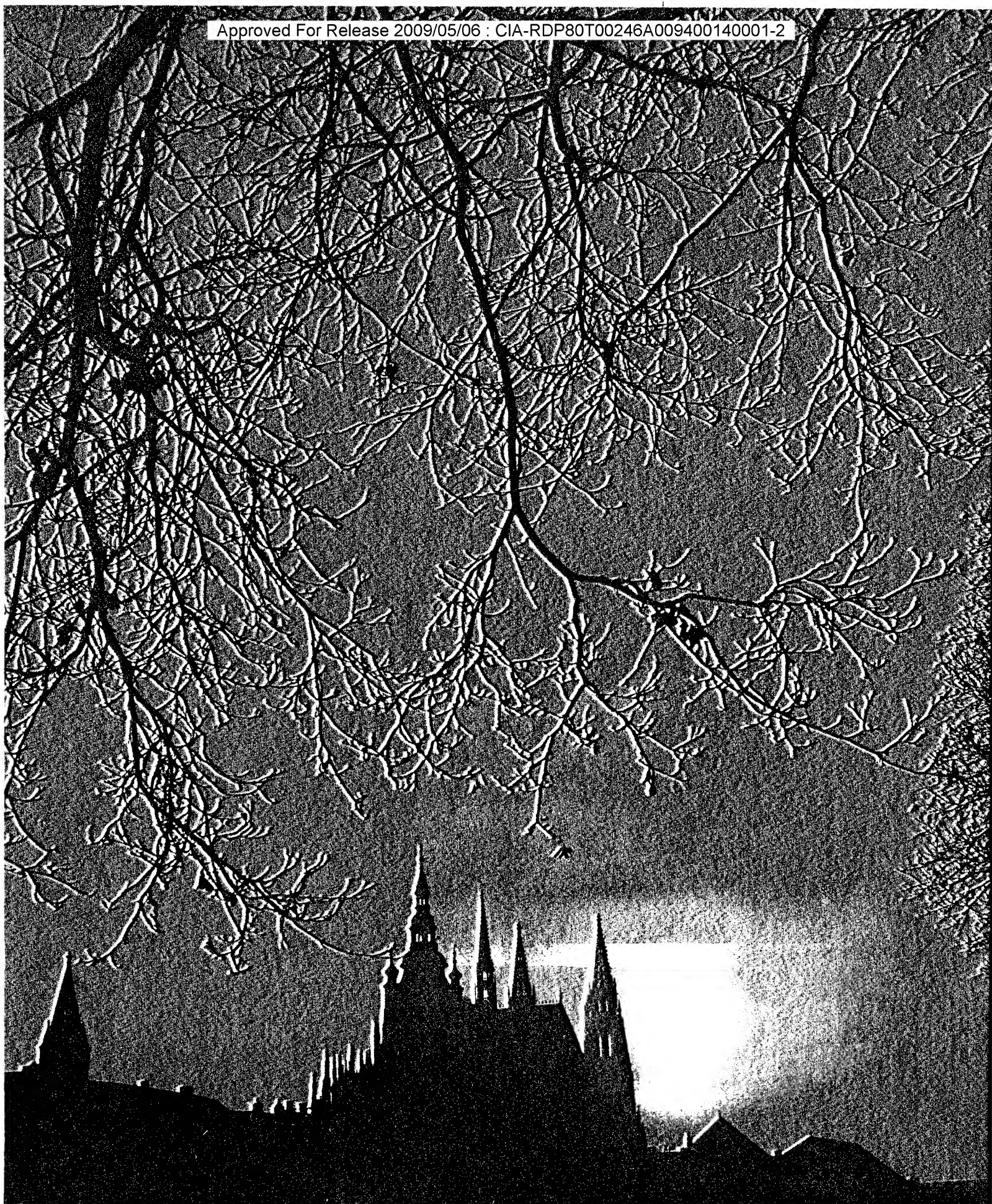


Concert in the cathedral





Approved For Release 2009/05/06 : CIA-RDP80T00246A009400140001-2



Approved For Release 2009/05/06 : CIA-RDP80T00246A009400140001-2

LIST OF PLATES

1 - 57



1. The Brdy Mountains in central Bohemia
2. Zvíkov in the Šumava
3. View from Hazmburk Castle, in the background Mount Říp
4. A poppy field in bloom in the Moravian Heights
5. The Moravian Heights
6. Krásná Horka Castle near Rožnava
7. Dawn over the Lužnice
8. Rafts on the Vltava
9. The Elbe at Litoměřice
10. Meanders of the Lužnice at Suchdol
11. On the Lužnice
12. On the Rožmberk fish-pond
13. The Svět fish-pond near Třeboň
14. The Svět fish-pond
15. Evening on the Rožmberk fish-pond
16. A forest in the Ore Mountains
17. Fallow deer in the deer-park at Hluboká Castle
18. Orlice Mountains
19. Winter in the Giant Mountains
20. The Boubín Mountain in the Šumava range
21. In the Beskid Mountains
22. A cottage in the Šumava
23. A cottage in the Beskids
24. The Domica Grotto in the South Slovakian Karst
25. The Prachov Rocks
26. Winter in the Little Fatra Mountains
27. The Giant Mountains near Rokýtnice
28. Stalin Peak in the High Tatras
29. The Little Fatras
30. Ještěd, the highest point in the Jizera Mountains
31. At the foot of the Orlice Mountains
32. Autumn in the Czech Paradise
33. Twilight in the fields, central Bohemia
34. Easter at Žďár in the High Tatras
35. Petrovice in the Žamberk district
36. A cottage in the Orlice Mountains
37. Old Železný Brod
38. Lonely hamlet in central Bohemia
39. Spring in the Low Tatras
40. Rataje on the Sázava
41. A view of Telč from the fish-pond
42. The town square at Telč, seen through the castle gate
43. Telč town square
44. The town square at Bardějov with the old Town Hall
45. A fair in the neighbourhood of Kežmarok
46. Litoměřice
47. The National Cemetery at Terezín
48. Tábor
49. Kotnov Castle at Tábor
50. Old Town Gate at Třeboň
51. The house called "The Little White Horse" at Třeboň
52. Jindřichův Hradec with the Vajgar fish-pond
53. The Castle courtyard with arcades at Jindřichův Hradec
54. The Courtyard at Krumlov Castle
55. View of Krumlov Castle
56. The Hercules Fountain and collegiate church in České Budějovice
57. The Castle Tower in Jindřichův Hradec

LIST OF PLATES

58 - 113



58. Kutná Hora, the Church of St James with the gallery of the Cathedra of St Barbara
59. Kutná Hora, the Cathedral of St Barbara
60. Kutná Hora, the Italian Manor House
61. Kutná Hora, detail of a Gothic fountain
- 62 and 63. Karlštejn Castle
64. Košice, the Renaissance rotunda at the Church of St Elizabeth
65. Český Krumlov, steps in the Castle park
66. Točník Castle
67. In Hazmburk Castle
68. Spišské Podhradie
69. Orlik Castle
70. Bastion of Krásná Horka Castle near Rožnava
71. An old cottage at Sobotka with the Humprecht Château
72. Bratislava Castle
73. Bust of Christ the Sufferer from 1520 (National Gallery)
74. Libochovice Château
75. Interior of Kynžvart Castle
76. Old Bratislava
77. A modern street in Bratislava
78. On the slopes of the Castle Hill, Bratislava
79. Prague, view of the Castle from the House of the Artists
80. The Castle from the Church of the Knights of the Cross
81. The Charles Bridge in winter
82. The Prague Castle from the Vrtba Garden
83. The main tower of St Vitus's Cathedral
84. Window on the West Front of St Vitus's Cathedral
85. Transept of St Vitus's Cathedral
86. A concert of church music in St Vitus's Cathedral
87. Golden Alley, Hradčany
88. Salla terrena of the Wallenstein Palace
89. The Church of St Nicholas from the Vrtba Garden
90. Clock tower of the Church of St Nicholas in the Little Quarter
91. The Astronomical Clock, Old Town Hall
92. Týn Church
93. The Huss memorial, in the background Týn Church
94. Autumn on Kampa Island, with the Charles Bridge
95. View of Prague from the "Náplavka"
96. Evening on the Charles Bridge
97. Autumn on the Vltava
98. "The Two Little Bears" house, birthplace of E. E. Kisch, the famous Prague journalist and writer
99. The National Theatre
100. The Old Jewish Cemetery
101. The Old Jewish Cemetery
102. Flight of steps and sculptures at Troja Mansion
103. Fountain with dolphins in the Old Town Square
104. Mozart's Prague home—Bertramka
105. Crossroads at the National Theatre in the evening
106. The Church of St Nicholas floodlit
107. Charles Bridge floodlit
108. Bridge Tower of the Little Quarter at night
109. An evening concert on the Vltava
110. Carved beehives in the Beskids
111. Old countrywoman
112. Deep ploughing
113. Cutter and binder

LIST OF PLATES

114 - 172



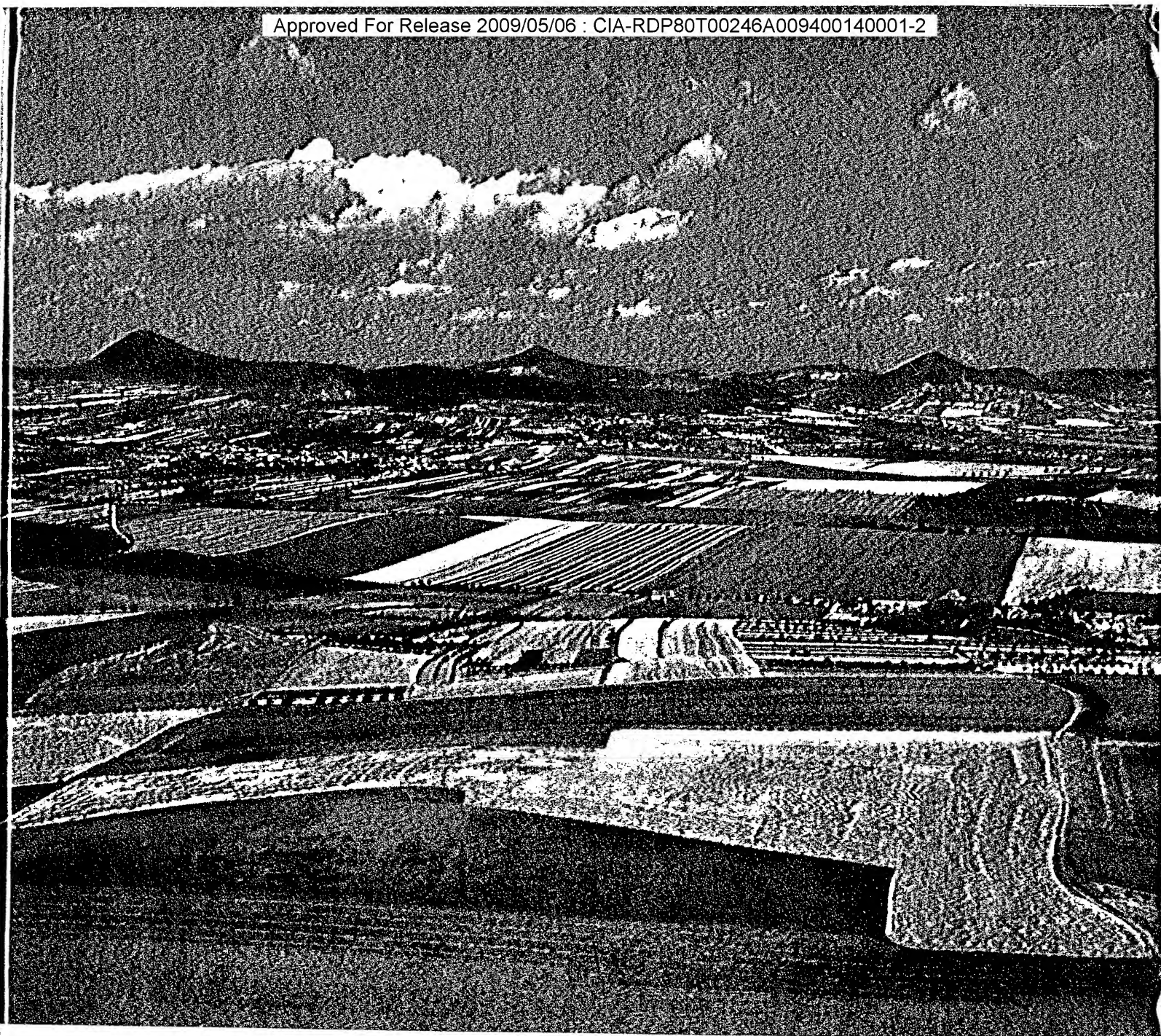
114. The Strážnice Festival
115. Highlander from the Tatras
116. The Orlice Mountains in springtime
117. Vintage (Liběchov on the Elbe)
118. Potato lifting
119. Loading sugar beet
120. Work in a rice field on Žitný Island
121. A flock of sheep in the road near Fričovice
122. Sorting tobacco
123. Smíchov brewery yard
124. Old paper mill at Velké Losiny
125. A miniature edition of the Koran printed at Vimperk
126. Czech glass in the making
127. Producing cut glass
- 128 and 129. Manufacture of musical instruments at Kraslice
- 130 and 131. Manufacture of pure silk
132. Assistant in a biochemical laboratory
133. Manufacture of artificial jewellery at Jablonec
134. The building faculty at the Prague Technical School
135. Inside a Škoda car
136. Ore mines at Příbram
137. Ore mines at Příbram
138. View of Ostrava
139. A mineral spring at Františkovy Lázně
140. Mariánské Lázně
141. Foreign visitors at Karlštejn
142. Skiing in the Giant Mountains
143. Hiking in the Beskids
144. Hurdles
145. Emil Zátopek
146. A football match on the Letná Heights
147. A motorcycle road race
148. František Hadač, world champion archer
149. Autumn hunt
150. Returning from the hunt
151. Shot laid out
152. Shopping in a Prague food-store
153. A Prague bus
154. In the rain
155. The recreation ground
156. At the ball
157. Dancing in an Old Prague beer cellar
158. Early morning in a Prague street
159. One of Prague's many passages
160. Over a glass of Czech beer
161. Wenceslas Square at night
162. Prague airport
163. Prague airport
164. Autumn in the Czech Paradise
165. Baroque sculpture in the Castle grounds at Český Krumlov
166. South Bohemian Gothic Madonna
167. Baroque statue of St Christopher from southern Bohemia
168. The statue March in the Veltrusy Mansion park
169. Fountain at Olomouc
170. Saturn's hearth at Libochovice Mansion
171. The Božena Němcová memorial by Karel Pokorný in Prague
172. Statue of Jan Žižka on Vítkov

LIST OF PLATES

173 — 203



173. Štursa's Eva
174. Karel Pokorný, National Artist
175. The School of Ceramics in Prague
176. Ceramic kiln at the Industrial Art College in Prague
177. Statue from the Zbraslav gallery
178. The National Gallery at Zbraslav
179. The National Gallery at Zbraslav
180. Cyril Bouda, graphic artist
181. Printing etchings on the hand-press at the Prague Academy of Art
182. The Vyšší Brod Madonna, National Gallery
183. Restoration work on a wall of the Prague Castle
184. The art lesson
185. Prague bookshop
186. The University Library
187. The University Libarry
188. Scene from *Mother Courage* by Brecht
189. Eduard Kohout, member of the National Theatre in Prague, in the role of *Colonel Chabert*
190. Slávka Procházková, member of the National Theatre opera company in Prague, in the role of Mařenka in Smetana's opera, *The Bartered Bride*
191. Scene from the ballet, *Spartacus*, by Aram Khatchaturian at the National Theatre
192. Vycpálek Folk Dance Company
193. A performance of Dvořák's opera, *Rusalka*, at the Municipal Puppet Theatre at Kladno
194. Children learning an old folk dance
195. Children learning an old folk dance
196. Barrandov Film Studios
197. The Moravian Teachers' Choir in the Pantheon of the National Museum in Prague
198. Mravinskij conducting at the Prague Spring music festival
199. Vronski and Babin performing at the Prague Spring music festival
200. Summer concert in the Strahov Monastery garden
201. The Choir of the Czechoslovak Radio in St Vitus's Cathedral
202. Listening to a concert in the garden of Queen Anne's Pavilion
203. Sunset over the Prague Castle



# THE FACE OF A COUNTRY

